VALLEY VOICE

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County Employees Fight for First Raise Since 2008

Catherine Doe

Tulare County employees, represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and Tulare County management are engaged in heated negotiations. If the two sides cannot agree on a contract by June 30th, the represented employees will have the option to call a strike.

The SEIU is asking for a three-year contract with an 8.74% raise. Their request is based on the Tulare County Board of Supervisor's pay raise during the last two years of 8.98%.

The county has countered with a one-year contract and a 0% raise.

Joann Salazar, leading negotiator for the SEIU, expressed that a 0% raise and a one-year contract is an insult and a waste of county resources. "Once you are done with this year you have to jump right in and start negotiating for the next year." Salazar sees no reason for a 0% increase saying, "The county is not claiming an inability to pay. They are claiming unwillingness."

At issue is not only the length of the contract and raise, but the fact that county employees have not had a raise in pay or benefits since 2008, while management and the board of supervisors (BOS) has. Salazar pointed out that it's not right for Chief Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau to be making almost $200,000 a year in a county where 28% of the people are living in poverty. "I think that is bad public policy."

Supervisor Steve Worthley and Supervisor Pete Vander Poel decided not to accept a pay raise until everyone received an increase.

Linda Castillo, a Tulare County dispatcher who also is on the negotiating team, said that morale throughout the county is at an all-time low. "All the prices go up but not our salaries. Everyone is very upset." She was told during an April negotiation meeting that county employees were not offered a raise because of the drought and uncertain economic situation. Kermit Wullschleger, an employee who is also on the negotiating team said, "This is a lot bigger than us getting a raise, it's about the health of Tulare County government. Saving money on the backs of the workers and not the managers will hurt the services provided to all citizens of this county."

Tulare County Employee Lena Case gets emotional giving her testimony while the board listens attentively.

According to SEUI, Tulare County has become a training ground for other counties. "Because we are the lowest-paid employees in the state, some departments have a 20% turnover rate," said Castillo. If Tulare County invested in their work force they would not have to continue to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to train new workers on an ongoing basis. Castillo also said she was told during negotiations that the county lowered their qualifications and standards to apply for a job to attract enough people to fill the vacancies because of the high turnover rate.

EMPLOYEES continued on **4 »**

County Efforts Show Reduction in Water Use

Tulare County is doing its part to save water during California's historic drought by turning off sprinklers, focusing on planting drought-resistant plants, and seeking ways to improve irrigation efficiency at its parks and grounds.

Officials with the Tulare County Parks & Grounds division reported at a Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting that since the water reduction measures were implemented in December 2013, more than 125 acre feet, or 40 million gallons, has been saved.

"Tulare County will continue to lead the way when it comes to water conservation measures," said Phil Cox, chairman of the board of supervisors. "A gallon saved by the county is a gallon that could be used by our agriculture community, which is the lifeblood of our economy."

Tulare County Parks & Grounds Manager Neil Pilegard said irrigation at county parks and grounds – totaling 450 acres – has been reduced by 50%.

The county will seek grant opportunities to renovate outdated and inefficient irrigation systems and continue to implement water saving landscapes at various sites.

Pilegard said signs will also be installed at county parks to educate the public about the water-saving measures being implemented.

Tourism Adds More than $400 Million Annually to Tulare County Economy

Steve Pastis

Dean Runyan Associates released its "California Travel Impacts by County, 1992-2012" report last month, which shows tourism now adds more than $400 million to the Tulare County economy. This reflects a steady increase in several spending and earning categories, with most now above their pre-recession levels.

Visitors often describe Visalia as a "hidden gem."

Tulare County, its cities and its other travel destinations all contribute to promoting local tourism. Some marketing is done independently and some is a cooperative effort. This effort has evolved over the years.

"We've done tourism for a long time," said Eric Coyne, Tulare County tourism manager. "It used to be funded by a contribution by the county to the EDC." He noted that the county gave the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation between $60,000 and $90,000 each year, with part of that going to promote tourism. The county started its own dedicated tourism program in 2011.

"We wanted more say about how things were done and to make sure we

TOURISM continued on **6 »**

Tulare County Board of Supervisors District 5 Goes to a Runoff

Catherine Doe

For a few days after the June 3rd primary, Tulare County Supervisor Mike Ennis managed to fend off three District 5 challengers and stay just above the required 50% plus one vote to avoid a runoff. But after the final count tallied last Friday, June 13th, Ennis came up short by only 21 votes.

Mike Ennis

Porterville City Council Member Virginia Gurrola came in second with 23% of the vote, and is gearing up for a new race. "The way I see it, more than 50% of the voters want a change," she said, "so let's give them a change." Gurrola and Ennis will face each other in the November 4th general election.

Greg Shelton came in third with 15.29%, followed by Felipe Martinez with 11.75%. Both are former Porterville City Council members.

Even before the primary, Gurrola and her election committee were strategizing about her campaign should she make it to November. When asked what she had planned, Gurrola said we would have to wait and see. She did admit, "We have to get more voters out." Part of any campaign is to do a voter registration drive, which Gurrola does plan to conduct.

Virginia Gurrola

One of her first priorities, if elected, would be to form a District 5 advisory committee. At present, the biggest issue is the drought, but an advisory committee could also be used to address employment, tourism or education. Gurrola said that right now we need to reach out to the unincorporated areas where wells are drying up and see if residents there can get loans or state grants to help. The advisory committee could look at different directions the county could take, or pursue other avenues such as finding new companies to drill wells, or connecting residents to city systems. Gurrola could then take the advisory committees ideas and bring them back to the board of supervisors for discussion. "We are out in the South Valley and we have different needs," she said.

An important aspect of being on the board of supervisors is accessibility. "As an elected official, I serve the public and I need to be accessible to them."

As many in the media or those who live in District 5 know, it can be difficult to get Supervisor Ennis to return phone calls or attend a town hall meeting. Gurrola plans on meeting regularly with her constituency and maintaining an open-door policy. A key attribute of her tenure on the board of supervisors will be "engagement."

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

The Music of Summer

I was initially going to write about an extended family situation--and the distress it has caused our immediate family--by contrasting it with the generous offer of an old friend. But the distaste of the former has in no way been diminished by the magnanimity of the latter, so I decided to let it go. I therefore turned my attention to the recent comments on bullying uttered by Porterville Mayor and linguist par excellence, Cam Hamilton. But he is lost, I think, in the poorly reasoned topiary maze that is his mind--and I don't want to kick a man when he is down. The next topic I considered for this issue was the disintegration of Iraq, and the transformation of al Qaeda in Iraq into the Islamic State of Iraq, currently the wealthiest klepto-jihadi/terrorist organization in the world and now commonly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (Syria), sporting the otherworldly acronym ISIS. Some also call it ISIL, substituting the Levant for al-Sham or Syria. Potato, potahto, tomato, tomahto--I called the whole thing off.

In a couple of days, literally, it'll be summer. Why not celebrate that?

Argue--if you're able to--against a barbecue. A family favorite around here is a recipe I helped invent more than thirty years ago: Chicken Mismo. Marinate chicken leg quarters overnight in teriyaki and mustard, toss in honey, beer or any red wine--maybe both--Worcestershire sauce, bay leaves, olive oil, lime, garlic, curry powder, peppercorns--anything at all, really. These will only contribute the tiniest of subtleties, and you'll notice, if you make it enough times, that Chicken Mismo always comes out tasting much the same--thus the "Mismo," which is Spanish for "same." Our kids coined the name for this dish when we lived in Mexico and, because it was warm all the time--like summer--I frequently made use of the grill. The secret, of course--for those who favor an uncomplicated palate--is that any marinade ingredient apart from the first two is unnecessary. This is a bonus when the cupboard is bare. What is essential is the following: Using an electric mixer, blend about two cups of mustard into roughly a quart of teriyaki . Then come the optional touches. Let the chicken--eight to twelve leg quarters--soak in the refrigerator until about three hours before grill time. In other words, bring it to room temperature. Over an extravagantly hot fire--hotter than good sense tells you is wise--place the chicken meat-side up on the grill. Cooking time is an hour, during which no bird will be flipped--except by the ravenously hungry. Ply them with drinks. Well, tell them to get their own--you will not be able to leave the barbeque. When, after a few minutes it seems you're merely burning the chicken, ladle some of the marinade liberally onto each piece. Then cover the grill. This will result in a tremendous, if aromatic, sort of smoke signal. It will signal the success of your effort. But you have to repeat the process every five minutes. It may require some experimenting with the frequency and amount of marinade applied--and with venting--but the result will be a dinner worth the hour's wait. Your chicken will be smoky and crunchy and juicy all at once.

All at once--or not. Perhaps because of its lengthy daylight hours, summer seems to offer a choice of pace. You could, for example, reasonably eat dinner at ten o'clock, catch the end of a ball game, then go for a midnight swim. But during wintertime, the sun goes down like the curtain at a play--and the night then is a different scene entirely.

This will be the summer scene I'll always hold in my head: Despite the many road trips, concerts and days at the beach, despite the many parties and barbecues and beer-fueled softball games, I'll always be, say, 25-years old. It'll always be a comfortable 110 degrees poolside, in the shade of an umbrella, where a cold bottle of good lager will clank against the glass table I rest it upon between tiny sips. Tiny sips, because I'll drink many bottles. Everyone else will be inside, cocooned in their air-conditioned siestas, and the chicken will be coming to room temperature on a kitchen countertop. It'll be a full three hours before I'll have to light the coals, during which time nobody will venture out into what they call the "heat." And on the radio--yes, radio--the Dodgers will be in a tight one against my Giants. I'll always be able to hear the first verse of KSFO's unofficial theme song:

When the Giants come to town, it's Bye-Bye Baby
Every time the chips are down, it's Bye-Bye Baby
History's in the making at Candlestick Park
Cheer for the batter, and light the spark...

That's the music of summer--that, and the crack of a bat, the splashing of pool water, the fizz of beer, and the sizzle of grilling. Forget Heyward and Gershwin's "Summertime," no matter how easy the livin' is. Forget every paean to sunny Southern California ever penned by Brian Wilson. Cole Porter said it best, referring to someone as the "Top," when he favorably compared this person with "the purple light of a summer night in Spain." It works for me. Just substitute the fizz of beer for that of champagne.

— Joseph Oldenbourg

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Published by The Valley Voice, LLC.
Publisher/Editor: Joseph Oldenbourg
joseph@ourvalleyvoice.com
Associate Editor/Sales: Steve Pastis (steve@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Staff:
Catherine Doe, writer (catherine@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Tony Maldonado, webmaster (tony@ourvalleyvoice.com)
April Heath Pastis, writer (april@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Louie Luna, sales (louie@ourvalleyvoice.com)
Contact us & share your opinion
www.ourvalleyvoice.com
208 W. Main St., Ste. E • Visalia, CA 93291

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Political Fix

Catherine Doe

Primary Predictions

In the May 15th issue of the *Valley Voice*, I published my predictions for the June 3rd primary. I made predictions for the first and second place winners for six races, and first place winners for District Attorney and Sheriff. Out of my fourteen predictions I got twelve correct. Of the two predictions I got wrong, one was not well thought out and the other a real head-scratcher.

The most interesting primary race was State Assembly District 26. It seemed like a safe bet to predict that a Republican would come in first and a Democrat second. Everyone but Devon Mathis was surprised when that didn't happen. As he said to me on election night, "That was kind of my plan." Rudy Mendoza came in first and Mr. Mathis finished second, beating out the closest Democrat by a wide margin.

I predicted that Ruben Macareno, leader of the Tulare County Democratic Party, would easily take second place. He came in a disappointing fourth. Mr. Macareno considers his election loss as a serious wake-up call for all local Democrats. Last week, he pointed out that Tulare County has no Democrat sitting on the Board of Supervisors, State Assembly, State Senate or United States Congress. He also pointed out that the Democrats' performance in June's primary was a ridiculous failure. Only three Democrats made it to the November general election: Sam Aguilera-Marrero, Amanda Renteria and Luis Chavez, all of whom are longshots to win.

Political pundits did say that the extremely low turnout was heavily tilted toward Republicans. "You're dealing with apples and oranges," said Allan Hoffenblum, editor of *California Target Book*, an elections almanac. "People who turned out yesterday (the primary) are different than those who will turn out in November."

The other race I got wrong was the Tulare County Supervisor's 5th District. I'm at a loss now as to why I predicted that two Republicans would take first and second place in the supervisor's race and didn't think it possible for the 26th State Assembly District. Kudos to Greg Shelton, who nailed it. He predicted that Supervisor Mike Ennis would come in first and that Virginia Gurrola would claim second by about ten percentage points over himself. She ended up beating Mr. Shelton by seven percentage points and then forced the incumbent into a runoff, which I did predict correctly. Mr. Shelton ran because he felt that he was the only one who could beat Mr. Ennis if he had made it to the general election. Mr. Shelton gave up his chance to defend his seat on the Porterville City Council so he could run for supervisor.

They All Fall Down

"That Boudreaux and Ward were able to take full advantage of the orchestrated incumbent positions handed to them by their predecessors says more about the political maneuvering than it does about their aptitude for office." So says Melinda Morales of the *Visalia Times-Delta*.

Ouch.

Ms. Morales would have a point if Sheriff Boudreaux hadn't won by a whopping 46 points. Voters can smell a fake, and if Boudreaux didn't have the chops to back up his "orchestrated incumbent position," he would have lost by as much as he won. The same holds true for Tim Ward, who won by 11 points. Political maneuvering can make an impact on a tight race, but you can't baloney your way to a landslide, especially against competent, experienced challengers.

It was an especially surprising and disappointing election night for challenger Ralph Kaelble. To add salt to Mr. Kaelble's wound, with the exception of Tulare County, incumbents for the DA's office fell one by one in other valley races. The challenger for Fresno County District Attorney, Lisa Sondergaard Smittcamp, beat incumbent Elizabeth Egan, who had been in office since 2002. In Kings County, incumbent Greg Strickland lost badly to challenger Keith Fagundes. Mr. Fagundes, like Mr. Kaelble, was also a county prosecutor with 11 years' experience.

So why did Mr. Kaelble lose? After analyzing the election there was one clear difference between what happened in Kings and Fresno Counties versus what happened in Tulare County. According to the *Fresno Bee*, there was discord in the DA's office, enough so that Ms. Smittcamp was able to get the endorsement from the rank-and-file inside Ms. Egan's office. The same was true in Kings, except worse. Also according to the *Fresno Bee*, Mr. Fagundes attributed his victory to the turmoil going on in the current DA's office. "This is a huge message that we need a serious change. I intend to bring it."

Conversely, Mr. Kaelble did obtain many rank-and-file endorsements, but not the rank-and-file in the DA's office who supported Mr. Ward.

As for running 2018? Mr. Kaelble hasn't ruled out a rematch.

Election Fun Facts

Gov. Jerry Brown could have been dead and still would have finished first in the primary.

Leland Yee got more than 330,000 votes--even though he was involved in schemes to traffic firearms, murder-for-hire, and money laundering. He came in third out of eight candidates.

A Republican hasn't won a statewide office since 2006, when Steve Poizner won for insurance commissioner and Arnold Schwarzenegger was re-elected.

There are 18 million registered voters in California. That's larger than the entire population of all except four states, making name recognition especially difficult in a statewide election. Good luck, Ashley.

In conservative Tulare County, where most Democrats stayed home to watch America's Got Talent on election night, liberals Jerry Brown, Gavin Newsom and Kamala Harris won the popular vote. Good luck, Neel.

Amanda Renteria spent $400,000 to get 25.8% of the vote in the Congressional District 21 election against Rep. David Valadao's 64.7%. Sam Aguilera-Marrero spent 95 cents to get 25% of the vote against Rep. Devin Nunes.

California, as a whole, experienced record low voter turnout, while Tulare County's voter turnout was ten percentage points higher than the June 2012 primary.

Twenty-two countries around the world have compulsory voting, and ten of them enforce it, one of the strictest being Australia. Enforced voting means that elected officials actually represent the majority, rather than the 20% or less who were motivated to vote and voted for the winner.

Local Boy Makes Good

Within 48 hours of Rep. Eric Cantor's stunning primary loss, Rep. Kevin McCarthy was rounding up votes in the Republican caucus to take over the job of House Majority Leader. Not a lot of political light shines between the two allied Republicans as Mr. Cantor threw his support behind Mr. McCarthy to take over his position. A secret ballot will be taken to elect the next House Majority Leader on June 19th. It is widely accepted that Mr. McCarthy will win.

Mr. Cantor is the first House Majority Leader to lose his seat by being defeated in a party primary election since the post was created in 1899.

Rep. Kevin McCarthy, son of a Bakersfield firefighter, will be the first Central Valley representative to hold the number two position in the House. He represents District 23, which is most of Kern County and the eastern edge of Tulare County, including the towns of Lindcove, Lemon Cove, Three Rivers, Springville, Strathmore and Porterville. A graduate of California State University, Bakersfield, Mr. McCarthy started his political career when elected to the state assembly in 2002. He was elected to the House in 2006 and became the House Whip in 2011, after helping the Republicans regain control of the House. Only one other Valley lawmaker, Tony Coelho of Los Banos, has ever held the number three position in the House.

Mr. McCarthy has risen through the ranks more through his political tactics than legislation. He is well-liked in the House and considered a builder of personal networks. His office in the Capitol is known as the place to hang out for fellow legislators and for late-night pizza get-togethers. But it always comes down to money. He represents a safely Republican district, so has been able to funnel his campaign cash to other Republican candidates. This has become a common means for politicians to get plum appointments and status in the House. An effective fundraiser, since 2008 Mr. McCarthy has distributed more than $2.3 million to fellow Republicans through his political action committee.

But the more conservative wing of the party wants voting for the House Majority Leader put off, suggesting it is rigged. The Tea Party, which sees Mr. McCarthy as "too establishment," have put forward one of their own, Rep. Raul Labrador from the progressive state of Idaho. The Tea Party members of Congress know that Mr. Labrador can't win, nor does it seem they really want him to. They are more comfortable in their role of agitating rather than actually leading.

Rep. Devin Nunes, who never fails to add colorful commentary when it comes to the Tea Party, said, "They just come out here to you guys and complain and they blog and they Facebook, but when it's time to actually raise money and go recruit candidates and win elections so that you can stop Obama, which is what they say they want to do, they don't have the capability of doing it."

According to Central Valley Tea Party member Michael Der Manouel, "Every elected Republican member of Congress needs to sit up and take notice. You're not invincible. Just ask Eric Cantor." Maybe he was addressing that comment to Mr. Nunes.

Separation Anxiety

Residents of the northern county of Tehama voted in the June 3rd primary to secede from California and form a new state they plan on calling Jefferson. The vote to secede passed by 55.7%. The feeling of being over-regulated and under-represented fuels the fire of the secessionist movement in this county of only 63,000.

"I'm going to definitely talk to the people of Jefferson and tell them to stick around," joked Gov. Jerry Brown outside his residence in Sacramento on election night.

More counties in the region are expected to vote on related measures in the coming weeks. All told, the residents of 16 counties have established plans to help pave the way for the creation of Jefferson, which would contain around 467,000 residents and be roughly the size of New Hampshire and Vermont combined.

The push to succeed from California had is best chance in 1941, when the state of Jefferson was to be comprised of southern Oregon and northern California. According to the Jefferson State Project website, the abundant supply of minerals and timber in this region was largely inaccessible due to the lack of sufficient roads and bridges into the rugged mountain border country. The local citizens grew weary of unfulfilled promises from Salem and Sacramento to help fund highway projects in the region while building campgrounds in the cities where there were more votes.

This resulted in the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors voting to allocate $100 to research the possibility of seceding and joining the other Northern counties to form a new 49th state. Yreka was designated the temporary state capital where the "State of Jefferson Citizen's Committee" was formed.

Jefferson made the papers nearly every day, competing with headlines of Germany's ravaging Europe. On December 4, Judge John L. Childs of Crescent City in Del Norte County was elected governor. A staunch supporter of succeeding, the State of Jefferson was looking more like a reality.

News of the imminent succession was to air nationally the week of December 8, but on December 7th, Pearl Harbor was bombed and the State of Jefferson rebellion of 1941 came to an end. The people of the region went to work for the war effort and good roads were eventually built into the backcountry to access strategic minerals and timber. These same roads have helped countless numbers of rural families make a living from the land that continues to produce abundant, quality natural resources.

The Jefferson "state of mind" has disappeared in Oregon but remains in the hearts and minds of people in Northern California, or at least Tehama County.

Employees

Continued from p. 1

Tulare County has a two-tiered payment system that did not exist before 1996. That year, the highest paid county employee earned $66K, and a worker in Child Protection Services received $42K. Now, the highest paid Tulare County employee is around $200K yearly while the same CPS worker makes $91K. Pay inequality didn't originate in Tulare County, but the pay and benefit scale seems to mirror private industry more than the taxpayer-funded public sector that it is. One of the SEIU members said that for a small county we are too top heavy. "They are going to run out of people to manage if they hire any more managers."

Management positions, and all of those not represented by a union, got an average three percent raise in 2013. Rousseau said that they were in a position to give the raises because of the conservative measures the BOS had taken during the Great Recession and because of an unexpected increase in sales tax revenues. The county ended with a $10 million budget surplus at the end of the 2012-13 fiscal year, yet many feel that because of the inequality between management's salaries and the unionized workers' salaries, the windfall should have gone to narrow the pay gap. Wullschleger said that, "Compensations for management is way beyond what it used to be. The board is so obsessed with staying in line, or above, other industries when it comes to management pay, but they don't feel the same about the rank-and-file worker."

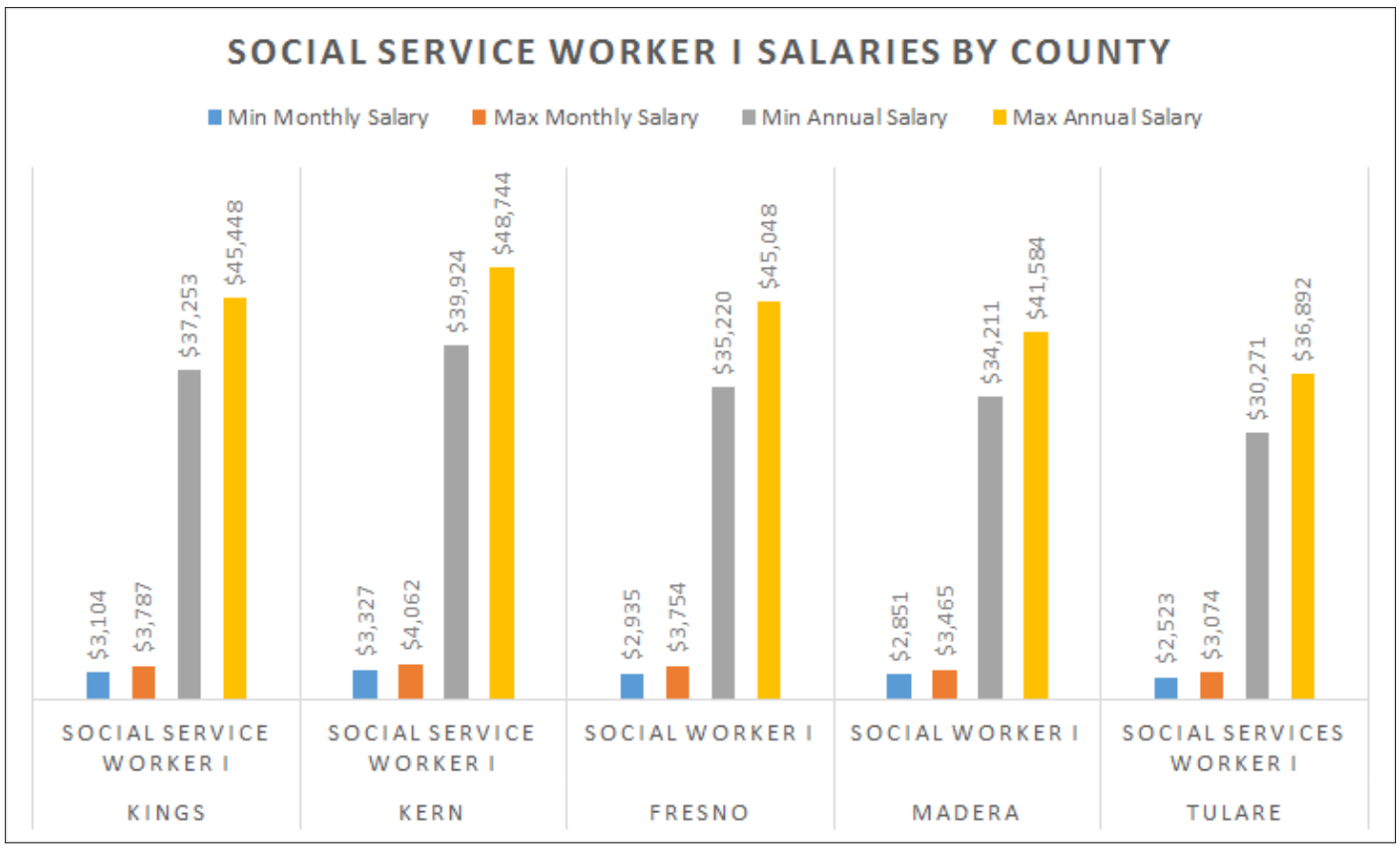

Chart compiled using publicly sourced information. For more information, see each county's website.

The negotiating team for SEIU points out that the Kings County BOS is paid $40K less than that of Tulare County, but that their employees are paid more. In fact, in a study of regional Valley counties, Tulare County workerswere paid 18% to 24% less than their counterparts. Castillo commented, "When smaller counties that actually bring in less revenue pay their employees more, that's a sign of mismanagement here." Because of the financial scandal in Bell, new legislation was passed that gives citizens a right to request a county audit. Salazar said that in our case it is not unreasonable to ask for an audit, "because there is something not right."

> *"When management hands me an 'employee of the month' certificate, and that person's children and spouse can go to a doctor and their life insurance policy is $250K while mine is $10K, it sends the message that I'm not worth as much as they are. It's kind of humiliating."*
>
> — Unnamed SEIU employee

In a letter to Sacramento legislators, the SEIU wrote, "We need your help to investigate what we perceive may be a gross mismanagement of taxpayer money. We ask that you support our effort to have the Joint State Legislative Audit Committee approve a State Audit." In response, seven or eight SEIU members were invited to Sacramento later this month to visit the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. While in Sacramento the union will be asking the audit committee to authorize a performance and/or financial audit of Tulare County.

Management and the Tulare County BOS did try to compensate workers during the recession, when they couldn't give raises, The Health and Human Services Agency developed the Tulare County Employee Recognition Program. According to Jed Chernabaeff, county media officer, "The program recognizes and honors the achievements and contributions of dedicated employees who consistently demonstrate performance excellence. Employees selected receive a framed 'Employee of the Month' certificate of appreciation and their names are submitted to the chief administrative officer as a candidate for the Tulare County Employee of the Year award."

The problem, says Castillo, is that those awards don't prevent that same employee from being written up the next week for a disciplinary action or laid-off in six months. What the employee needs is more money so they can live with a little more security--like the human resources personnel handing out the awards.

A longtime Tulare County employee, who declined to be named, had strong feelings about the awards program. "Boy, I don't know where to begin with that. In the last five to seven years, when they do an employee evaluation, they have an unspoken rule that no one will be perceived as working harder than anyone else; so, on a scale from one to ten, no one gets higher than a five or six. How do they come up with a candidate for the award when everyone gets a five or six? How do they choose? It's so bogus. I don't pay attention to the awards."

Another SEIU employee summed up their feelings about the program this way. "When management hands me an 'employee of the month' certificate, and that person's children and spouse can go to a doctor and their life insurance policy is $250K while mine is $10K, it sends the message that I'm not worth as much as they are. It's kind of humiliating."

Whereas many of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors are people of faith, and consider all employees their equal, in practice the rank-and-file are not treated equally. And when the employees try to negotiate a new contract and feel like management is not taking them seriously, they probably aren't.

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City of Visalia Awarded $670,044 in Urban Greening Grants

The City of Visalia was awarded a total of $670,044 in Urban Greening grants from the California Strategic Growth Council.

The city was awarded a $466,544 grant for the St. Johns River Riparian Corridor Restoration Project to develop new community space with the conversion of commercial use to parkland with bike path connectors to other trail segments within the city. The project will incorporate the planting of native, drought-tolerant vegetation and bioswale (a manmade wetland that encourages water drainage) features.

The city was also awarded $203,500 for the Jennings Waterway Landscape and Trail Project to develop community space while preserving a stand of oak trees along Jennings Waterway. About two acres of native vegetation will be restored, creating a half-mile meandering trail that connects with the adjacent Mill Creek Trail.

The Urban Greening Grants establish or enhance community green areas such as urban forests, open spaces, wetlands and community gardens. "Not only do these grants result in plans and projects that make our communities more vibrant, but collectively these investments get us closer to meeting air quality and water conservation goals that are especially significant during this drought," said Secretary for Natural Resources and SGC Member John Laird.

"The city has been very aggressive and successful in obtaining funding to enhance our community's landscape," said Mayor Steve Nelsen. "I commend the staff for their tireless efforts to bring these dollars to Visalia for the benefit of all citizens."

The awards, from Proposition 84 funding, were announced last week. The California Strategic Growth Council awarded a total of $40.2 million in Sustainable Communities Planning Grants and Urban Greening Grants. Out of 184 concept proposals received for the Urban Greening Grant Program, 40 entities received awards totaling $24 million.

In 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, which authorized the legislature to appropriate funds to support urban greening projects and sustainable community planning.

Network Leaders on the Move Presents Dinuba Farmers' Market on June 20

To fight an epidemic of obesity and its life-threatening complications in Dinuba and surrounding communities, the City of Dinuba and the Network Leaders on the Move/Tulare County Partnership has come up with a strong weapon: a farmers' market loaded with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Dinuba's Summer Night Lights event will feature a farmer's market.

The market's grand opening, along with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, will take place from 5-9pm on Friday, June 20, at 289 South L Street in Downtown Dinuba. The market will take place on Fridays and will run for six weeks, with the exception of Thursday, July 3, to honor the 4th of July.

The Dinuba Certified Farmers' Market has been a collaborative effort to provide locally grown produce and increase the awareness of chronic diseases associated with obesity. The market provides fresh affordable produce to the community, and provides local farmers an outlet to sell their produce. It also gives healthcare experts the opportunity to educate shoppers on nutrition, obesity and diabetes. Making healthy food choices and changes is critical in fighting signs of obesity and preventing diabetes in Tulare County.

Every year, the City of Dinuba hosts "Summer Night Lights," an event where families gather to enjoy musical entertainment, food, and much more! This year, the city will present the Dinuba Certified Farmers' Market. The market will complement the event in hopes of attracting more families to support the market for years to come.

This event is part of the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention efforts.

Mike's Quality Cameras co-owners Pam Coz-Hill and Rob Coz.

Digital Technology 'Nudges' Mike's Quality Cameras into Closing Its Doors

Steve Pastis

Mike's Quality Cameras, a fixture in Downtown Visalia since 1977, is closing its doors. The shop is currently liquidating its inventory by selling everything at cost.

The store, founded by Mike Coz in 1977, first opened its doors at 111 W. Main St., before moving to its larger location at 105 E. Main St. in 1985. When Coz retired in 1987, he left Mike's Quality Cameras to his children, Pam Coz-Hill and Rob Coz.

Eleven years later, the camera business started to change. Coz-Hill first noticed the effects of technology on their business in 1998, when about 5% of their customers went digital, even though "the resolution was only good for their computer screen."

This was happening despite the fact that a one-megapixel camera sold for about $1,000 then. (They sell for about $89 now.) After almost 20 years of improvements, digital cameras now offer 24-megapixel resolution for less than $800.

"By 2005, people were starting to embrace digital," she added.

The change to digital "snuck up on us," said her brother, Rob. He added that when cameras first went digital, the change brought people back into the shop, but he quickly learned that this increase in business was only temporary.

"They would buy a camera and they would buy a printer and then you never see them again," he said.

"We became part of the electronics industry which has razor-thin profit margins," said Coz-Hill, adding that the "poor profit structure" of the electronics business has "nudged us into retirement."

Coz-Hill has been "semi-retired," only coming to the shop one day a week "to do the office stuff."

Pam Coz-Hill and Mike Coz on opening day, Sept 15, 1977, 111 W. Main St., Visalia.

She plans to spend her extra time taking care of her 89-year-old mother.

Coz plans to go sailing and snow skiing. He still intends to offer services such as film transfer to tape and DVD.

Porterville College's Associate Degree in Nursing Class of 2014: Amal Ahmed, Kari Carrillo, Bredana Celaya, Alyssa Childers, Elizabeth Dela Cruz, Kimberly Della, Valerie Elizondo, Kimberly Garretson, Dwayne Gundran, Melissa Grace Hill, Bethany Lindvall, Ericka Marchbanks, Krystina Montoya, Gabriela Moreno Carranza, Roberto Olvera, Veronica Ramirez-Amezcua, Joseph Ramos, Hannah Risvold, David Taggs and Aubreeana Walker. For more information about the Associate Degree in Nursing program at Porterville College, call 791-2321 or visit www.portervillecollege.edu/healthcareers.

Porterville College's Psychiatric Technology Class of 2014: Ricardo Aguilar, Maria Aguirre, Kathy Baxter, Linda Beltran, Tannia Boney, Taylor Carter, Anya Cline, Ronnie Johnson, Frances Llanos, Dainedwin Madrigal, Diana Martinez, Rosalyn Palomino, Rosalina Perez, Pedro Ramirez, Luis Ruiz, Jennifer Selk and Kristina Torres. Graduation was held June 2nd. Scholastic Achievement awards were given to Aguirre and Cline. The Outstanding Clinical Performance award was given to Baxter. For more information about the Psychiatric Technology program at Porterville College, call 791-2321 or visit www.portervillecollege.edu/healthcareers.

Tourism

Continued from p. 1

have return on investment," said Coyne, who noted that the county currently spends $35,000 annually on its tourism program and has an additional $15,000 stake in regional tourism efforts.

The Visalia Convention & Visitors Bureau is a non-profit organization that is not a city department or part of the Visalia Chamber of Commerce. The city, however, supplies most of the funding for its $275,000 budget, with memberships from hotels, restaurants and attractions also contributing.

"We're critical in helping leisure travelers and business travelers," said Gail Zurek, tourism & marketing manager for the Visalia CVB. For business travellers, the organization helps meeting planners find the hotels and restaurants that best fit their needs. "For leisure travelers, we keep hearing over and over that we're this hidden gem. We tell them about our great seasonal menus and fresh fruit and our walkable downtown and our outdoor attractions."

Visalia promotes its walkable downtown.

The Visalia CVB is a member of the Sequoia Tourism Council, as is every chamber of commerce in the county, as well as the county itself. Zurek is the Visalia CVP representative on the council. "We recommend and support all of Tulare County's attractions," she said.

Coyne, the county's representative to the council, described this effort as "friendly cooperation."

"Tulare may spend money. Visalia may spend money. You get as much as you give by marketing locally," Coyne said. "We know that marketing makes a difference, but it's hard to quantify who exactly gets the result. But if you don't advertise, you know what you're going to get – nothing."

When asked what report numbers reflected most favorably on local tourism efforts, Zurek noted, "there has been growth" in the total direct travel spending numbers for Tulare County. Spending in the county in 2012 was up by over 10% between 2007 and 2012, despite the recession. Visitor spending more than doubled since 1992.

The report shows an increase of 430 tourism-related jobs between 2011 and 2012 (4,570 to 4,800), but still less than 2007 (4,970). Both Coyne and Zurek questioned the accuracy of these numbers.

"What's a tourism-related job?" Coyne asked rhetorically. "If you add another cook, how much of it is because of tourism? And who do you call a 'visitor'? Someone from Dinuba? Fresno? At some point, they are a visitor. They're down here for something."

"Folks go into our grocery stores; they're shopping our meat markets; they're buying gas," said Zurek. "It's all a piece of the pie. Tourism, by its nature, is incredibly difficult to track. No one wants to self-identify as a tourist. You can't, by standing at the entrance to Brubaker's, identify who's a tourist and who's a local."

The impact of the Great Recession resulted in a 10% dip in visitor spending between 2008 and 2009, despite local tourism marketing.

"Local efforts obviously make a difference, but tourism spending is non-essential spending and it depends on the economy," said Coyne. "During the recession you saw a change in tourism patterns. Instead of east coast to west coast travel, you saw more 'staycations' (people visiting the attractions near their homes)."

During the recession, the county marketed the local national parks, as well as events such as the Iris Festival in Porterville and the rodeos, said Coyne. "Event marketing became very important. In a recession, how do you keep visitor spending going?"

The Great Recession was not the only recent economic challenge to local tourism, however.

"We know that the government shutdown (in October) cost the county probably $2 million," said Coyne. "We were on track for it to be a record year. This was a rare chance to make up ground because of the drought. The (mountain tourism) season had been extended through November."

The county works through local chapters of organizations to help bring national and regional conventions to Tulare County. A recent state convention of the American Planners Association resulted in more than 600 room-nights at local hotels and increased business for local restaurants.

The county assisted in bringing that event to the area, as well as a convention of the International Society of Citrus Nurserymen. To help bring that event here, the county worked with the local chapter and even held a reception at the group's convention in Santa Barbara, showcasing Valley cuisine, said Coyne.

The county recently had a marketing analysis done for its visitors' guide. The results showed that most people requesting the guide already have a trip to Tulare County planned, but that after receiving the guide, most of them stay longer, said Coyne. "What that told us is, by golly, you better have another visitors' guide because we know that's working."

"When people get information about our area, they realize there's so much to do they need to extend their trip," said Zurek. "If they know about us then they're going to stay and they're going to stay longer, and that means we have to keep telling them.

"What I see is that we are an affordable alternative for travellers because of all the natural attractions," she added. "When visitors come to our county, it's affordable because of those attractions. We don't have a theme park admission cost."

She said she would put local restaurants "toe-to-toe" with restaurants anywhere, and that the meal prices – even at our high-end restaurants – is still significantly less than similar restaurants elsewhere.

"I think we have to continue to showcase Visalia and Tulare County in a way that inspires visitors to explore Tulare County," said Zurek.

Coyne said the most effective form of tourism marketing is "word of mouth" from locals, such as waiters, cashiers and others who respond to visitors' questions about restaurants and attractions. "The best trip advice is from someone local. Everybody knows their favorite place to buy ice cream."

The helipad at Kaweah Delta Medical Center.

Kaweah Delta Celebrates a Year of Helipad Landings

The first operational helipad in Tulare County surpassed the number of landings anticipated in its first year, with nearly a third of those bringing patients to Kaweah Delta Medical Center for life-saving care.

Kaweah Delta Medical Center's helipad received 183 helicopter landings in its first year, 51 of which brought patients to the hospital for care, while 132 transferred patients out of the area to receive a higher level of care.

One of the first inbound flights since the helipad became operational on June 3, 2013, brought Pete Atkins of Escondido to Kaweah Delta after he was injured on a horse packing trip in a remote area between Tulare and Inyo counties inaccessible by car.

"I fell on my right shoulder, my elbow jammed into my rib cage and I heard my bones crack," Atkins said. "If it wasn't for that helicopter, I think I would have bought the farm. It's a fact that because there was a helipad I was able to get care and attention much more rapidly."

At the time, Atkins couldn't walk and couldn't get on his horse. His guide came to the rescue riding north until he got to a ranger station where he radioed for help. Not long after, SkyLife's helicopter landed and Atkins was carried onboard. In 26 minutes, Atkins was at Kaweah Delta.

The $2.7 million helipad was completed with help from $2.3 million in community donations made to the Kaweah Delta Hospital Foundation, which plays a key role in helping Kaweah Delta, the only trauma center between Fresno and Bakersfield. Since the designation in 2011, the number of trauma patients has more than doubled to over 1,000 trauma patients each year.

"The helipad has had far reaching effects for the region," said Dr. Nichole Meissner, director of trauma at Kaweah Delta. "It's helped trauma victims get treatment faster, and treatment in the first hour has a significant impact on survival, especially when it comes to trauma."

Kaweah Delta is a 581-bed district and is the only trauma center between Fresno and Bakersfield. For more information, visit www.kaweahdelta.org.

Tulare County HHSA Honors Foster Parents

The "Foster Parent of the Year" and "Exemplary Service by a Foster Parent" awards were presented on May 28 at the annual recognition dinner hosted by Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA).

Ursula Schneider of Visalia was presented with the "Foster Parent of the Year" award in recognition of her commitment to serving foster children. Schneider has taken in children ages two to 16, often in emergency situations, and has demonstrated "time and time again that she truly loves every child who has come into her life."

HHSA Foster Care staff members Jennifer Salcido and Yessenia Sanchez presented Carmen Pineda of Tulare with the Exemplary Service by a Foster Parent award in recognition of her commitment to fellow foster parents. Pineda has been a foster parent since 1995 and has helped train new foster parents through the Foster Parent Association.

The awards were announced in May in connection with national Foster Care Month.

Today, there are over 900 children in the Tulare County foster care program. These children have been removed from their homes through no fault of their own because they have been abused, neglected or abandoned, or their parents are ill or incarcerated. The ultimate goal of foster care is to reunite children with their biological parents. More foster parents are needed in every community of Tulare County to allow them to stay in their own school.

For more information, call Yessenia Sanchez at 623-0563 or visit tchhsa.org.

New Survey Shows Tulare Tenants Want Protection from Secondhand Smoke

A new survey of Tulare County tenants shows support for more protections from secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing. This survey found that a majority of tenants favor rules prohibiting smoking in outdoor common areas of complexes (70%) and inside apartment units (66%).

Despite these findings, only 43% of Tulare County tenants report currently living in a building with any rules limiting smoking. Breathing secondhand smoke in multi-unit buildings is a health problem because smoke drifts from neighboring units, patios, balconies and outdoor common areas through open windows, doors and shared ventilation systems. Survey results indicate almost 28% of tenants in Tulare County have experienced secondhand smoke drifting into their unit.

"Drifting secondhand smoke is a real health hazard and this survey shows that residents across our county are highly aware of this fact," said Dr. Karen Haught, county health officer. "So looking at these results, it is not surprising that so many tenants want to be protected from secondhand smoke exposure in their homes."

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke. In 2006, the California Air Resources Board classified secondhand smoke as a "Toxic Air Contaminant" in the same category as asbestos, cyanide and arsenic, all of which can lead to serious illness and death. Restricting smoking in multi-unit housing will protect residents from exposure to a toxic air contaminant, result in financial benefits to landlords and owners through reduced maintenance and turnover costs, and improve the community's health.

"People should feel safe in their own homes, yet it is alarming that many residents of Tulare County are experiencing drifting secondhand smoke where they live," said Kimberly Amazeen, vice president, programs & advocacy for the American Lung Association in California. "To ensure the health of these tenants, more must be done to give them the protections they need from secondhand smoke."

The Tulare County Public Health Department is working with residents who want to live in smoke-free environments, as well as owners and managers, joining more than 55 municipalities throughout California already addressing the health needs of multi-unit housing tenants.

Tulare County tenants were surveyed as part of polling by the American Lung Association in California for CA4Health, a project of the Public Health Institute funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The poll itself, conducted by Goodwin Simon Strategic Research, included tenants in 12 CA4Health counties: Calaveras, Humboldt, Imperial, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano, Tulare and Tuolumne.

Survey results are available at http://center4tobaccopolicy.org/smokefree-housing-ca4health-poll.

The Public Health Institute is dedicated to promoting health, wellbeing and quality of life for people and works in close partnership with local communities to support their efforts. The American Lung Association in California is a leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

The Whitlatch Group
Bill Whitlatch, Real Estate Broker, BRE Lic #00874715
525 W. Center, Ste D
Visalia, ,CA 93291
Wayne Millies, Sales Agent
BRE License 01783454
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Early Childhood Education Tailors Instruction to Each Child Based on Data Analysis

Staff Reports

Zaylie Botello, a preschooler at Early Childhood Education's (ECE) North Visalia Center, excitedly announced that she wants to read books in kindergarten. Teacher assistant Ninfa Guerrero asked students at her table to illustrate something for their book project that they want to do when they reach kindergarten next year. Zaylie began to draw tiny books she imagines that she will read in kindergarten. "This is a letter book, and this one is a book about animals," she said, pointing to her illustrations.

Teacher Cassandra Greer explained that students work on school readiness goals as part of the federal Head Start program's directive to prepare students for success in kindergarten. The weekly goal that students were working on at the Visalia center was called "growing and changing" and it is designed to help children see how they continue to develop new abilities.

To ensure students in both home-based and center-based settings are meeting these goals, Early Childhood Education has recently developed a data analysis team, led by Jordan Davis. Using the California Department of Education assessment tool known as the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), teachers and home educators assess children three times during the year – the initial assessment occurring within the first 30 days of school. DRDP contains 42 measures ranging from a child's sense of self and memory knowledge to math operations and letter/word knowledge.

"What used to take months of analysis by an outside agency now is done quickly," said Visalia Supervisor Margie Chavez. "This enables staff to determine where each child is developmentally and then to adjust instruction to meet their needs."

ECE programs also use the Brigance assessment tool, which is widely used in special education. "In the event that one of our students requires special services, special education teachers appreciate that we use this tool and provide so much documentation," added Chavez.

Chavez also reported that the center has reached out to neighboring Crowley Elementary for support. "I approached Principal Jesse Sanchez about visiting our center to observe our instruction," she said. "He was so welcoming that he sent an entire team of teachers and support staff to observe our practices and to meet with our parents to talk to them about what their children can expect in kindergarten."

Crowley teachers were delighted to see the center's Focus Wall, which contains the School Readiness Goal and language and mathematics tools.

"Our goal is to increase the level of learning in both center-based and home-based programs," said ECE Administrator Connie Smith. To complement the program's new data analysis capabilities, Smith has instituted a professional development series entitled "Inspire Saturdays." Modeling ECE trainings after the professional development offerings of Educational Resource Services, she noted that the staff has embraced the opportunity to increase their instructional skills. ECE is working toward meeting the federal Head Start standard requiring bachelor's degrees for all teachers and associate's degrees for all assistants. "The process of obtaining their degrees has certainly helped them grow and be better prepared to serve our children," said Smith.

Zaylie Botello smiles as she thinks about all the books she will learn to read in kindergarten. Zaylie and the other children at the North Visalia Child Development Center work daily on School Readiness Goals designed to prepare them for success in kindergarten.

A consistent element of ECE's success has been its Program Policy Council (PPC), which includes parent members. "We are cultivating leaders," Smith said. "Through the PPC, our parents are contributing to the program in significant ways."

Recently when ECE acquired iPads for every center, parents were the ones who researched and recommended the educational apps that the program later evaluated and purchased for the tablets. "They are learning leadership skills they can use as their children get older, as well as apply in their communities," said Smith. "It's also encouraging to see that fathers are equally engaged."

In a recent report of DRDP results presented to the Tulare County Board of Education, students showed gains of 30% or more in six key developmental measures between the first and second tests taken a few months apart. "Early Childhood Education is a statewide model of instructional excellence," said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. "Through data support, staff professional development and parent involvement, Tulare County children are well prepared to enter kindergarten."

$10 Million in Rental Assistance Soon to Be Available for Families Affected by the Drought

Thousands of low-income California families impacted by the drought will soon be receiving rental assistance, thanks to a new $10 million grant program being offered through California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). La Cooperativa, a nonprofit association, has been selected by HCD to administer the program, and assistance will begin flowing directly to California families in the coming weeks.

"This program will provide timely, short-term disaster assistance for workers in agriculture and related industries as impacts of the drought continue to be felt," said Randall Deems, acting director for HCD. "Rental assistance and help with utility bills will provide some stability to families and communities that are most vulnerable to the economic impacts of reduced agricultural production this year."

The Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program, which will also help subsidize utility payments, will be offered to eligible individuals and families in Tulare, Kings and 22 other counties, which have an unemployment rate that is higher than the 2013 statewide average and have a higher share of agricultural workers than the state as a whole.

La Cooperativa, an association of nonprofit farmworker agencies, has just been awarded the contract through a competitive bidding process. They will implement and administer the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program on behalf of HCD. La Cooperativa has a strong history of providing services for disaster relief and rental assistance to Californians.

"We appreciate the governor's actions to support residents who have been affected by the drought disaster," said La Cooperativa Executive Director Marco Lizarraga. "We're looking forward to partnering with HCD to deliver this much-needed assistance as quickly as possible."

Individuals and families interested in applying for the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program will have multiple access points. La Cooperativa has more than 50 offices in the 24-county area, plus four mobile units that will serve smaller agricultural communities. A short application will need to be completed and if an applicant is deemed eligible, rental payments will be made directly to the landlord and/or utility company.

More information on the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program is available by calling La Cooperativa at 916-388-2228.

Governor Jerry Brown has called on all Californians to reduce their water use by 20% and prevent water waste. Visit saveourH2O.org or drought.ca.gov to learn more about how California is dealing with the effects of the drought.

Scam Alert – How to Spot a Fake Job on Craigslist

Better Business Bureau

No experience necessary, no resume required, immediate start... sounds like the perfect job description, right? Actually, it sounds more like a scam. Craigslist job scams use tempting offers and the names of real organizations (including BBB!) to attract victims.

How the Scam Works: You see a job post on Craigslist.org. It says your local BBB is hiring 10 "Customer Service Representatives" for a new branch office. The ad claims that the job doesn't require previous experience... or even a resume. You just need to respond immediately to ensure that you secure one of the limited interview slots.

Sounds too good to be true? It is! This BBB job scam is from the San Francisco Bay area, but watch out for fake job ads throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Job scams have many different twists. Scammers may ask job seekers to pay upfront for training, which never materializes. Or they may "hire" you and send a fake check. The con artists will instruct you to deduct a fraction for payment and wire the rest back. Other scams ask you to complete an online application that requests personal identifying information and bank account numbers that can be used for identity theft. Remember, summer is coming and many students will be applying for jobs. Check out the following tips to avoid being victim of a job scam.

Tips to Avoid Falling for Fake Job Scams

1. Some positions are more likely to be scams: Use extra caution when looking at ads for jobs with generic titles, such as admin assistant or customer service representative. These often don't require special training or licensing, so they appeal to a wide range of applicants
2. Watch out for these phrases: Scam ads often contain the phrases "Teleworking OK," "Immediate Start" and "No Experience Needed." Watch out for ads that urge you to apply immediately.
3. If a job looks suspicious, search for it in Google. If the result comes up in many other cities with the exact same job post, it is likely a scam.
4. Be very cautious of any job that asks you to share personal information or hand over money. Scammers will often use the guise of running a credit check, setting up direct deposit or paying for training.
5. Check out the business' website to make sure the opening is posted there. If you are still skeptical, call the business to check on the position. Don't rely on websites or phone numbers provided in the advertisement; find the "employer" on your own to make sure it's the real deal.

Check with your BBB. Call 1-800-675-8118 or visit our website at www.cencal.bbb.org to get a copy of their BBB business review.

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Home-Generated **Sharps** Drop-Off Days

These events are only for residents of Tulare County:

- **June 14 (Saturday) 10 am to 2 pm**
  Tulare City Hall - 411 E. Kern - Rear Parking Lot
- **June 26 (Thursday) 2 pm to 6 pm**
  Dinuba Transit Center Parking Lot - 180 W. Merced
- **July 10 (Thursday) 2pm to 6pm**
  Visalia - Parking Lot 44 - Tipton at Oak, between Center and Murray
- **July 19 (Saturday) 8 am to 12 pm**
  Porterville Corporation Yard
  555 N. Prospect, Enter on Grand Ave

The new Home-Generated Sharps Waste Collection Program goes into effect on July 1, 2014. To launch the program, Consolidated Waste Management Authority is hosting four free drop-off events throughout Tulare County to collect sharps from residents. Sharps will only be accepted in approved certified sharps containers.

The program provides Tulare County residents free drop-off of their used sharps at the local retailer where they originally purchased their sharps.

What are home-generated sharps?
Needles, syringes and lancets used by residents for themselves, family members, or their pets.

Why do I need to use the drop-off service?
It is illegal to dispose of sharps waste in the trash, recycling, and yard waste containers or flush them down the toilet.

What do I need to know?

- Certified sharps containers can be purchased at your local pharmacy.
- Sharps in any other type of container will not be accepted.
- No drugs or prescription medicines accepted.
- These events are for home-generated sharps waste only.
- Proof of Tulare County residency is required by showing either a driver's license or current utility bill with a Tulare County address.

CWMA

For more information:
Call 559.713-4404 or visit: www.cwmarecycles.com

Northwest Food Products Transportation LLC and Trillium CNG celebrating the grand opening of the newest CNG station.

Trillium CNG Opens New Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Station in Tulare

Staff Reports

A newly constructed compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station, built by Trillium CNG, is now operating at the Roche Oil, Inc.'s Pacific Pride Cardlock at 1120 E. Paige Ave. in Tulare. The station is located on the south side of Tulare on Exit 85 off Interstate 99. An open house was held at the station on May 29.

The new Trillium CNG station is expected to be the primary fueling location for Northwest Food Products Transportation LLC. "This will be good for business and also the environment," said Greg Nelson, transportation manager for Northwest Food Products. "We operate 17 CNG-fueled trucks in our fleet, so having a CNG refueling station nearby will improve our efficiencies in operations."

"We are excited to not only be the official CNG refueling stop in this area for Northwest Food Products, but also thrilled that other CNG fueled vehicles will be able to fill up at the new location and take advantage of other services we provide," said Courtney Roche of Roche Oil, Inc.

Trillium CNG built the refueling station to allow for easy access by heavy-duty fleet trucks. The new CNG station will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It will have two dual-hose dispensers allowing two semitrailers to fuel at the same time, and will feature Trillium CNG's proprietary fast-fill hydraulic intensifier compressor. The station will accept all major credit cards and fleet cards.

"We are excited to bring this environmentally friendly, safe, and economical fuel to fleet vehicles in the Tulare area," said Mary Boettcher, president, Trillium CNG. "It's great we can partner with both Northwest Food Products and Roche Oil who clearly understand the benefits of natural gas as a transportation fuel for heavy-duty fleets."

Trillium CNG is a leading provider of CNG to fleets and also offers complete facility design, construction, operation and maintenance services. The company focus is on providing fueling assistance to heavy-duty fleets that require high performance solutions.

For more information, visit www.TrilliumCNG.com.

Republican Leader Conway Responds to Landmark Ruling in Vergara Case

Staff Reports

Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway, R-Tulare, responded to the landmark ruling handed down by the Los Angeles County Superior Court last week in the Vergara case, which challenged teacher tenure laws on the grounds that they discriminate against students in predominantly low-income and minority communities.

"Today's ruling is perhaps the biggest civil rights victory in recent memory," Conway said. "It is a victory for all parents who want their children to receive the best education possible.

"A great teacher is the key to preparing our kids for a bright future in whatever career path they choose, and is an important factor in turning around low-performing schools," she continued. "A quality education is the great equalizer that can set any child from any background on the path toward a bright future. It is no exaggeration to say that this single ruling has the potential to lift more children out of poverty than any social program.

"This case wouldn't have been necessary if Sacramento Democrats had embraced the education reforms we have proposed over the years to ensure that every student in every community has the opportunity to learn from a great teacher," she added.

Empowering parents – especially those whose children are attending low-performing schools – and reforming the state's teacher tenure laws has been an important priority for Assembly Republicans this session. Among the reforms introduced by GOP lawmakers are:

Assembly Bill 1221, by Assemblyman Scott Wilk, R-Santa Clarita, would streamline the process for suspending or dismissing a teacher for unprofessional conduct. Existing state law requires complying with arduous, expensive and time-consuming mandates to dismiss a teacher. Generally, these mandates are followed by a lengthy appeals process. AB 1221 would give victims and their families the closure they need by removing dangerous individuals from the classroom in an efficient and timely manner.

Assembly Bill 1279, by Conway, would expand the current open enrollment program statewide allowing any student to transfer to a public school district of their choice. Current law requires students to attend the public school they are assigned according to their home zip code. Students may transfer to a nearby school district but need written permission from the home district, which is rarely provided. AB 1279 would permit all students to take advantage of the program and transfer to a different public school district without the explicit authorization from the resident district. Students transferring would be required to choose a higher performing school and the receiving school would need to have space available.

Assembly Bill 815, also by Conway, would expand the Parent Empowerment Act to include all schools performing in the bottom 30%. The Parent Empowerment Act allows parents to demand change (including converting their school into a public charter) if their school has been chronically failing and at least 50% of parents petition for the school to be subject to a turnaround strategy.

Assembly Bill 2240, by Assemblywoman Shannon Grove, R-Bakersfield, would require local superintendents to make teacher assignment and transfer decisions based on what is in the best interests of students. The bill also clarifies that seniority-based layoffs should be made based upon the equal protection of all students. The legislation was introduced in the wake of the ongoing Vergara lawsuit.

Días para la recoleccion agujas usada generadas por uso domestico.

AGUJAS

Estos eventos son solo para residentes del Condado de Tulare:

- **Junio 14 (Sábado) 10 am a 2 pm**
  Ayuntamiento de Tulare
  411 E. Kern - estacionamiento trasero
- **Junio 26 (Jueves) 2 pm a 6 pm**
  Estación de autobuses de Dinuba - 180 W. Merced
- **Julio 10 (Jueves) 2pm a 6pm**
  Estacionamiento 44 de Visalia - Calle Tipton y Oak Ave
- **July 19 (Sábado) 8 am a 12 pm**
  Almacén de la Ciudad de Porterville - (Corporation Yard)
  555 N. Prospect, Entre por la avenida Grand

El nuevo Programa para la Recolección de agujas usadas generadas por uso doméstico entra en efecto el 1 de Julio del 2014. El Departamento Consolidado para la Recolección de Residuos está patrocinando un evento gratuito de 4 horas para los residentes del Condado de Tulare. Las agujas usadas solamente se aceptaran en contenedores aprobados y certificados.

El programa proporciona a los residentes del Condado de Tulare la oportunidad de llevar las agujas usadas a la tienda o establecimiento donde se hayan comprado originalmente sin costo alguno.

¿Que son las agujas generadas por uso doméstico?
Agujas, jeringas y lancetas usadas por personas, miembros de familia, o mascotas.

¿Por qué debo de utilizar el servicio de recolección?
Es ilegal tirar las agujas usadas en los contenedores de basura regular, reciclable y para desechos de yarda, o tirarlas en el excusado.

¿Qué necesito saber?
- Los contenedores certificados pueden comprarse en su farmacia local.
- No se aceptaran agujas usadas en cualquier otro tipo de contenedor.
- No se aceptaran medicinas recetadas o drogas.
- Estos eventos son para recolectar solamente agujas usadas generadas por uso doméstico.
- Se requiere presentar un comprobante de residencia en el Condado de Tulare, como la licencia de conducir o un estado de cuenta actual de cualquier servicio doméstico con dirección en el Condado de Tulare.

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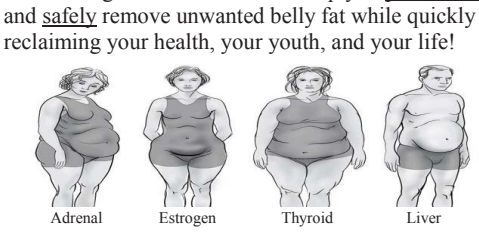

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Briefly...

Visalia City Council Gets First Look at Budget

At a June 2nd work session, the Visalia City Council got its first look at the city's 2014-16 budget. A public hearing was held on June 16, and a meeting on June 26 is expected to decide on budget adoption. The city charter requires a budget be adopted by June 30.

The recommended appropriation for all funds in fiscal year 2014-15 is $231 million, and $199 million for FY 2015-16. The 2015-16 fiscal year budget is less because about one-third less will be needed for the construction of the wastewater plant.

The biennial budget is the first since 2008 that does not include reductions in services, programs, maintenance or employees. The general fund budget includes allocating resources to provide or enhance services and programs for the residents of Visalia. The total general fund budget for FY 2014-15 is $60 million, and $62 million for FY 2015-16. It also includes the transfer to the emergency reserve of $1.1 million in 2014-15 and $500,000 in 2015-16.

The goals for the biennial budget include: gradually rebuilding the organization by adding back resources, increasing funding levels for capital improvement projects, funding new debt payment for the Visalia Emergency Communications Center, increasing resources directed at maintaining city facilities, and replenishing emergency reserves.

HCCA/Tulare Regional Medical Center Announces Accreditation

Demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's National Standards for Healthcare Quality and Safety, Tulare Regional Medical Center Laboratories – which include the in-patient, outpatient and Mineral King Toxicology Laboratory – have once again earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval.

HCCA/Tulare Regional Medical Center underwent a rigorous, unannounced on-site survey in late April. During the review, a team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated compliance with laboratory standards related to several areas, including document and process control, health care-associated conditions, risk reduction and staff education. Surveyors also conducted on-site observations and interviews.

"Joint Commission accreditation gives laboratories the processes needed to improve in a variety of areas from specimen collection to result reporting," said Chad Larson, MBA, interim executive director of the Laboratory Accreditation Program for The Joint Commission. "We commend Tulare Regional Medical Center for its efforts to have laboratory services contribute and support the overall health care delivery system."

Citrus Thieves Caught in Paramount Farms Groves

Paramount Farms turned to a private detective agency to try to stop thieves who were stealing citrus from groves south of Bakersfield.

Paramount called on Pipkin Detective Agency of Visalia to patrol the groves, which resulted in the arrest of three suspects, the impounding of two vehicles and the seizure of stolen fruit as evidence. Arrested were Juan Gonzalez, Eduardo Castro and Efrain Gonzalez, all of whom said they are residents of Maricopa. The trio is now awaiting arraignment in Kern County.

The crop is valued at several thousand dollars, said Rocky Pipkin of Pipkin Detective Agency.

"The suspects replaced license plates with paper dealer plates and left the real plate on the front, trying to avoid detection," Pipkin noted. "We believe they were going to sell the fruit at roadside stands or farmers markets. This is a reminder that consumers need to be careful of where they buy produce so we don't support this underground, illegal economy."

Pipkin Detective Agency was formed in 1987 and has evolved into one of the most effective private investigations firms on the West Coast. Western Executive Protection, also owned by Pipkin, is staffed by former and current law enforcement officers and brings to the Valley a professional, highly trained staff of security personnel.

For more information, call 622-8889 or visit pipkindetectiveagency.com.

Sequoia Tourism Council Presents Awards

The Sequoia Tourism Council held its second annual State of Tourism Breakfast, where industry colleagues and tourism stakeholders came together to learn about trends, programming plans and the impact that the tourism industry is contributing to economic growth in local communities. The guest speakers were Woody Smeck, superintendent of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Anand Patel, president and CEO of Fairfield Conference and Visitors Bureau.

The Sequoia Tourism Council awarded outstanding tourism partners for their contributions to tourism promotion in the region. This year's Spirit of the Sequoias honoree was Marily Reese, who has been a supporter of tourism and recreation-based businesses in the region for over two decades, and was involved in the initial grassroots efforts of the Sequoia Regional Visitors Council, which later evolved into the Sequoia Tourism Council. Reese currently works with California Land Management that operates on national forest lands, and serves as the executive director of the National Forest Recreation Association.

The Tulare Outlet Center was presented with the Tourism Partner of the Year Award for its efforts to promote tourism, enhance the visitor experience and provide quality customer service through its company and the partnering 50 retailers, eateries and entertainment entities located onsite. The Tulare Outlet Center promotes the amenities of the Sequoia region in print and other media to attract visitors in California, across the U.S. and worldwide.

The State of Tourism Breakfast was held this year at the Historic Seven Sycamores Ranch in Ivanhoe, and was well attended by industry professionals, local government representatives and tourism partners from throughout Tulare County and the Sequoia region.

NeighborWorks America Names Peter N. Carey as COO

NeighborWorks America named Peter N. Carey as its new acting chief operating officer (COO). Carey, who is retiring June 30 after nearly 25 years as the CEO of Self-Help Housing in Visalia, will join NeighborWorks America on July 18. Self-Help is a nonprofit organization and member of the NeighborWorks network that has developed more than 7,000 single and multi-family homes since its start in 1965. As acting COO, Carey will oversee the organization's divisions of field operations, national initiatives, training and organizational assessment.

In addition to holding the top position in a multi-million nonprofit organization, Carey was mayor of Visalia between 1989-1993, and board member and acting chairman of the California Housing Finance Agency from 2004-2013.

Fresh Select Aims to Employ 341 in New Tax Credit Program

FreshSelect, LLC, a Dinuba-based packinghouse and cold storage company, is in line for the new California Competes Tax Credit, one of 31 companies across the state selected to participate in the new program. Fresh Select is the only Valley company in the running for $500,000 out of a total of about $30 million in tax credits available.

A committee is scheduled to vote on the first round of tax credits on June 19, in Sacramento. As part of the tax credit agreement, Fresh Select plans to significantly ramp up employment, with a base of 11 full-time employees last year, 22 this year up to 352 through the 2018 tax year. The company currently employs up to 250 employees during peak seasons and packs up to 1,000 bins a day in a single shift. That would include nearly $6 million in company investments through 2018, which is the tax credit period. As part of the tax credit agreement, Fresh Select, LLC would increase operations with the purchase of new equipment.

Fresh Select packs citrus including easy peelers, as well as tree fruit, pomegranates and asian pears for global distribution.

Eagle Mountain Casino, KJUG Give $1,500 to Local Charities

Eagle Mountain Casino has teamed up with Momentum Broadcasting/KJUG Radio to donate $1,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California and $500 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Eagle Mountain Casino, along with "Mike and Lisa in the Morning," presented KJUG's Blackjack Battle for the Cause. Mike and Lisa formed blackjack teams to compete against each other with the winning team getting $1,000 donated to a charity of choice. Mike had the winning team so the $1,000 went to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California, and Lisa's runner-up team got $500 donated to St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

BRIEFLY continued on **12 »**

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EDC Reaccredited by International Economic Development Council

Staff Reports

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) announced on June 2nd that the Tulare County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has once again been recognized as one of 41 economic development organizations accredited by IEDC as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO). Originally accredited in 2001, the organization was reaccredited by IEDC following three successful years of activity as an AEDO member.

"The Tulare County EDC displays the professionalism, commitment and technical expertise that is deserving of this honor", said IEDC President and CEO Jeff Finkle.

The AEDO program is a comprehensive peer review process that measures economic development organizations against commonly held standards in the profession. The program consists of two phases: a documentation review and an onsite visit. Each phase is designed to evaluate information about the structure, organization, funding, program and staff of the candidate economic development organization.

Maintenance of the AEDO status is required every three years and is accomplished through documentation submission and onsite visits by a team of the AEDO subcommittee. The Site Visit Team, consisting of Brett Doney, president and CEO of the Great Falls (MT) Development Authority, and Dan Henderson, director of real estate & economic development for the town of Gilbert, Arizona, conducted a three-day visit and assessment of the EDC May 7-9.

Tulare County EDC President Paul Saldana

In making their unconditional recommendation for reaccreditation, the team stated that the EDC "exemplifies the AEDO standard and the organization not only follows best practices but develops new best practices for other agencies and organizations to follow." The team further commented that the EDC developed an advertisement with the tagline "California's Most Innovative Economic Development Organization" and "the AEDO Review Team believes the organization has earned the right to say so."

"Achieving reaccreditation for the EDC was a major goal of the EDC Board of Directors this year and is a testament to their leadership, commitment and focus of creating jobs for our residents through the recruitment of new businesses to our communities" said EDC Board Chairman Nick Seals.

EDC Board Vice Chairman Craig Vejvoda added that, "Earning the AEDO accreditation tells the community and prospects that the EDC attained a measure of excellence assuring that their trust is well placed and their business is in good hands."

The AEDO status will remain in effect until May 31, 2017. The formal presentation of the AEDO designation will be made at the August 27th annual meeting of the EDC Board of Directors.

Formed in 1983 by elected officials from throughout Tulare County, the EDC's mission and focus is to create new jobs through the creation and support of businesses and industry on behalf of the communities in Tulare County. The EDC has assisted hundreds of businesses that have brought thousands of jobs to Tulare County communities during the EDC's 31-year history.

The International Economic Development Council is the largest membership association serving economic and community development professionals in the world. With over 4,400 members nationwide and abroad, IEDC offers the economic development profession one source for information and professional development, one voice for the profession and one force for advocacy.

FHCN Launches Improved Online Patient Portal

Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) has launched new functionalities within its online patient portal, My Health/Mi Salud. The enhanced portal functions will further support FHCN's patients' ability to stay connected with their healthcare team via the Internet.

Through the portal, FHCN patients are able to electronically: request and keep track of appointments, access and view lab results, request prescription refills, view personal health records, receive educational materials, send and receive messages from staff, view health reminders and view billing statements.

"This enhanced patient portal serves as a great tool to help keep our patients connected to the most important aspects of their health easily, securely, anytime and anywhere," said Kerry Hydash, FHCN president and CEO.

Patients can use the patient portal by enrolling at any of Family HealthCare Network's 13 health center sites throughout Tulare and Kings Counties. Patients are given a secure username and password, enabling them to access the portal at their convenience.

For more information about Family HealthCare Network's My Health/Mi Salud patient portal, call Jon Bray, marketing & communications coordinator at 737-4932.

Briefly

Continued from p. 11

"A great time was had by all and we can't wait to do another promotion with Eagle Mountain Casino," said Mike Pesto, KJUG's morning host.

Eagle Mountain Casino is a full service casino and is owned and operated by the Tule River Tribe.

FHCN Community Health Professional Honored

The Latinas in Business & Professions Association honored Malorie Serrano, Community Health Coordinator from Family HealthCare Network, for her accomplishments as a community health professional in Tulare and Kings Counties.

As a community health coordinator, Serrano oversees the community health, outreach and enrollment team for Family HealthCare Network. Her duties include the facilitation of community health programs within the organization. She provides oversight of various programs including Ventanilla de Salud, Promotoras and HealthCorps/AmeriCorps. Other duties include participating in community outreach activities, education sessions and promotional activities that promote Family HealthCare Network. Serrano was also instrumental in developing and launching the organization's Covered CA and Medi-Cal expansion education and enrollment program.

"We are all proud of Malorie for her dedication and commitment to efforts focused on creating healthier communities," said Kerry Hydash, president and CEO of Family HealthCare Network.

Serrano was recognized at a special luncheon on June 12 by the Latinas in Business & Professions Association.

Local Inventors Develop Electronics Holder for Vehicles

Do you need to keep your cell phone or GPS in an easy-to-access area in your car or truck, but don't have any good way of doing so? If so, you might need the patent-pending Mobile Device Holder (Portable).

Two inventors from Visalia created a prototype for the accessory, which secures an electronic device in an easily accessible position inside a vehicle, RV, boat or home. This makes it easier for the driver to access and read the screen.

The accessory saves the driver from having to take his or her eyes off the road to fumble for the device. The design does not obstruct the driver's view of the road ahead. Additionally, it keeps the device from sliding around the vehicle's interior.

The inventors' personal experiences inspired their idea. "I wanted a device holder that would not block my view by being suction-cupped to the windshield," one inventor said. "I also did not want to deal with an arm that constantly fell over. My wife has taken three holders back to the retailer because they did not function properly. That is why I came up with this alternative."

The original design was submitted to the Fresno office of InventHelp. It is currently available for licensing or sale to manufacturers or marketers. For more information, call (412) 288-1300, ext. 1368.

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Is My Husband Still with Me?

Catherine Doe

This is Part II of the series "Speaking to the Dead – Are Mediums Real?"

Losing a husband or wife is one of the main reasons that someone will seek out a medium. The following is Valeria's session with medium Michelle Tedrow.

Valeria lost her husband last November, and then the grandmother who raised her a month later. Her brother-in-law died the same day as her grandmother, and of the same genetic disease that killed her husband. Valeria's biggest question for Michelle was, "Is my husband still with me?"

Valeria's Reading

If there is such a thing, it was a perfect day for a reading. Valeria and Michelle had picked the Hanford Municipal Park in which to meet and conduct their session. We sat at a table near the carousel and Michelle quickly entered that zone where she sets aside anything that has to do with her own life. She put her entire focus on any of Valeria's loved ones who wanted to come through. Valeria and I were easily distracted by the people coming and going, but Michelle didn't notice the loud talker at the hot dog stand or the people scraping their chairs against the concrete as they sat at the tables next to us.

The following is Valeria's reading.

MICHELLE: I call in my guides and angels on the other side to help us and then ask anyone on the other side who wants to come through. Many times it's more than one. They work together to bring in the information then I step aside and just bring through what I'm hearing, sensing and feeling. What I like to do is validate your husband's energy and give you validation it is him. I try to feel his personality. I feel like he was a very loving and gentle man.

VALERIA: With me, yes, with others no. With others he could get real dangerous.

(Valeria's husband was one of ten children and, after his mother died, he and some of his siblings joined the Norteno gang. His mother was the glue that kept the family together but ultimately succumbed to the same genetic disease of the liver that would take his and his brother's life.)

MICHELLE: But with you he could be gentle and loving. Are all five of your children with him?

VALERIA: No, just my son.

MICHELLE: Just looking at him right before he passed, I feel like I can see his true essence and feel a lot of love. He had gotten to a point where he really loved his family.

VALERIA: He did. What do I do now? Will I see him again?

MICHELLE: Do you have a small dog? I hear a yappy little dog. When he is yapping it is a sign that your husband is around.

VALERIA: We have two big dogs but a little dog that is always barking and there is nothing there. We always know it's serious if the big dogs bark but we don't pay attention to the little dog.

MICHELLE: You will see him again. He is around. He says that you were the best thing that ever happened to him. You were his rock. There was a huge change with him, a shift in energy with him in what is important in life and it started when you met. He wanted to make it right and gave 100%. He is sorry he had to leave. Did he have achy knees?

VALERIA: In the beginning he had really bad leg cramps and charliehorses in his legs. He felt like he had torn his Achilles tendon. For a year they kept misdiagnosing him with low potassium, diabetes, then just said it was old age. He was 49.

MICHELLE: He keeps showing me his legs.

VALERIA: It was a symptom of his liver disease. When they let him out of prison he hid how sick he was. He said that he was going to get a liver transplant and everything will be OK. But he died nine days after he got home.

MICHELLE: He felt like he was going to beat it. He liked cars didn't he? He could connect with his heritage and he enjoyed going to car shows with you.

VALERIA: He liked to do hydraulics and auto body work.

MICHELLE: He had a lot of friends and liked to laugh. You could see right through him but he had to put a front for everyone else. But really, he had a big mushy heart. He was close to his mom. He was a real mama's boy. He keeps saying, "My mom is here." Your son is really stepping up to the plate and helping you through this. He has a lot of his father's personality. Your husband tried to teach him the right way so he wouldn't take the path he did. He loved the animals too and that yappy dog. I see him in the household trying to get through to you and if you pay attention you will feel his energy around you. I saw him move aside from the people you were associated with because he wants something better for you. There is someone there in your life but he knows that you can do better. I see a door shutting and now you will have a whole new life.

VALERIA: Since he passed, old relationships have started popping up.

MICHELLE: Those are the ones you want to avoid. I see these guys trying to swoop in. He is concerned about your not being treated right. There is someone he sees right now that won't be good for you. You are on a journey. You need to take your time and he will be there to guide you. It's not like you will never be with someone else; he is not saying that. He will be there for you as a friend.

VALERIA: As soon as he was on his deathbed men started coming out of the woodwork. They would say, "Let's do coffee," "Let's reconcile. Give me another chance." "You've come so far." I might be good for them, but they won't be good for me.

MICHELLE: That's exactly what he would be saying right now. There is someone better for you. You are going forward. He says keep going forward, don't go backward. There was nothing left unsaid when he died. Everything was already good between you so there was not a lot to say.

VALERIA: Is my husband with the whole family? My grandmother passed a month after he died. It was like she was waiting for him to come home from prison and the hospital before she left. They released him 19 days before he died. He spent ten in the hospital and nine at home. When he died, I called my grandmother to let her know. That's when she told me it was now her time to go. She was 92.

MICHELLE: She was tired. She kept the entire family together. She was like a workhorse. She knew everything. She knew everyone's birthdays, anniversaries, and she kept it all in her head. Was she diagnosed a long time ago? It seems that she was supposed to go earlier?

VALERIA: She was like a mother. My mother was never around. My mother only wanted me around for the welfare check. Will my husband stay until my time comes?

MICHELLE: He will be in and out but he will be around. He can influence your life from where he is at. He can almost make more of an impact from where he is now. You will have your own connection. You can talk to him in your mind. You don't have to say it out loud. You can still talk to him when you need help with something. He can go wherever he wants. He is not stuck anywhere. I feel like you are going to get some healing. Take some time for yourself and listen to your gut before you make any big decisions. Did you get a scent that smelled like your husband?

VALERIA: Everything is the same. All his stuff is still in the drawers.

MICHELLE: Leave it like that until you feel like it's time to move it.

VALERIA: Who all is with me?

MICHELLE: Someone since you have been little. I feel one main person but a lot of angels too. When you turn in, and get closer to your center, you can just invite your guides and angels into your life and ask. Start consciously paying attention and be aware of your environment, the energy around you, and the people in your life. Learn to know who to trust. Does it feel right when you are around them and do they have the right intentions? Before you met your husband you didn't do that but now you have to use some discernment.

> *"You have to use discernment. I have my circle of angels and guides around me. No one else is allowed. I have a gatekeeper and that person only lets in my team members who need to be here. If you are too open you attract some spirits that should not come home with you."*
>
> — Michelle Tedrow, medium

VALERIA: I lost my best friend in 2005.

MICHELLE: You can still have that communication with her. Everything you had before you can have now. I don't feel your grandmother blasting through here. Did you best friend OD?

VALERIA: She gave up. She pulled out the IV, wouldn't take her medicine and wouldn't have the open heart surgery.

MICHELLE: Something is not right with that. It feels like a buildup of something.

Medium Michelle Tedrow

VALERIA: I feel like she is here.

MICHELLE: It doesn't mean she is not here. It's just that your husband is stronger. She almost died before and when she did die she wasn't cleaned up. She is blasting through now. She knew that physical abusive stuff first hand.

VALERIA: Her batterer did OD, in 1986, and she was never with another man.

MICHELLE: I feel like she couldn't leave that stuff alone.

VALERIA: She liked it.

MICHELLE: She just couldn't keep clean or straighten-up. She kept falling off the wagon. Her heart just gave up. She just threw in the towel and said I'm done.

VALERIA: That's how her son described it. She said I'm done, pulled out her I.V., closed her eyes and passed. We had just talked an hour beforehand. I thought I had the wrong name when I called the hospital. We never had a chance to say goodbye.

MICHELLE: You guys had a lot of past lives together. When you met you were instant soul mates.

VALERIA: I reminded her of herself. She knew all of my secrets and rescued me every time.

MICHELLE: She was tough. She beat the crap out of some people.

VALERIA: At the end she only had me, her son and a daughter. She was burning the candle at both ends. She always told me, don't overdo it, it's not worth it. I don't feel like I hear her but I know what she would do. Lately I've been drinking a lot of water. I started drinking water at night.

MICHELLE: Water conducts energy. The water keeps the energy flowing. You should meditate also. You can look on YouTube for a guided meditation. It's a time to relax and get into your body and into your senses. I meditate and ask for guidance and I get answers. I meditate to get out of my logic and clear my attachment from it.

VALERIA: How do you know who to call on?

MICHELLE: You have to use discernment. I have my circle of angels and guides around me. No one else is allowed. I have a gatekeeper and that person only lets in my team members who need to be here. If you are too open you attract some spirits that should not come home with you.

VALERIA: Do you have to practice?

MICHELLE: You have to practice every day. I've been practicing for ten years and am still learning.

Read in next issue's continuation of the series "Speaking to the Dead, Part III" – "Anyone Can be a Medium."

Viewpoint

New Sexual Assault Climate Survey Recommendation: Not An Excuse for More Administrative Bloat

Laura Finley

In April 2014, the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault issued a series of recommendations for college and university campuses related to responding to and preventing sexual assault. Given that one in five college-aged women endure a sexual assault, the White House is to be applauded for prioritizing this issue and for organizing the task force. But of course, it should be so simple to recommend that campuses do the right thing.

One of the first recommendations, and one that the group is pushing to become a legal mandate in 2016, is that schools undertake a campus-wide climate survey. The goal is to assess the true degree to which attempted and actual sexual assaults are occurring, given that this remains among the most under-reported crimes, as well as to better understand students' experiences with reporting and receiving services. It would seem as though there would be little opposition to such a recommendation, as clearly understanding the scope of this huge problem and identifying gaps in services would be a good idea for college or university administrators. Yet immediately many campus officials responded negatively. Why, one wonders?

The primary concern that campus administrators levied was that this would be an unfunded mandate that would require additional staff. That is, in my assessment, a very weak point, but one that reflects a growing problem on campuses: the need to bureaucratize everything. For instance, in an interview for the *Huffington Post,* Kevin Kruger, president of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, stated, "We get very concerned about legislation that requires additional staffing." Nowhere in the recommendation does it actually state that new personnel would be required, however.

Kruger's comment is indicative of the administrative bloat that characterizes higher education today. The first instinct of so many campuses is to hire new administrators to oversee required or even recommended programs. A report by the Delta Cost Project titled "Labor Intensive or Labor Expensive: Changing Staffing and Compensation Patterns in Higher Education" found that, between 2000 and 2012, new administrative positions, largely in student services, was the reason for a 28 percent increase in the higher education workforce. Administrative bloat has been cited as one of the primary reasons that the cost of obtaining a college education has outpaced the increases in healthcare and housing costs. A 2010 study by the Goldwater Institute found that administrative ranks grew twice as much as did the number of faculty between 1993 and 2007. It's not just new staff, either. Colleges and universities love to hire consultants to study every possible thing, often at huge expense and little return.

Instead of hiring new staff or consultants, campuses could look to utilize their faculty who have expertise on sexual assault to coordinate climate assessment surveys. This would be beneficial for many reasons, not just for the bottom line. First, it is likely that most campuses have a number of faculty members who really know this issue well and who would be eager to be involved in bettering their campuses' understanding of and response to sexual assault. Second, faculty could involve student researchers, who not only would have valuable insights about the issue but would gain important research, advocacy, and leadership skills through their involvement in the process. Third, using knowledgeable faculty and student researchers would ensure that the tools created and recommendations made were most appropriate for that specific campus, not simply a generic effort. Finally, keeping the research in house would demonstrate a real commitment to understanding sexual assault and developing unique and progressive responses and prevention efforts. In contrast, hiring another person or consultant to collect this important information suggests that administrators merely want to do what is required, rather than what is, as Vice President Joe Biden called it, a moral responsibility.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., teaches in the Barry University Department of Sociology & Criminology and is syndicated by PeaceVoice.

Crackerjacks, Golden Horses and Let's Not Fool Ourselves

Shannon Hoffman

Community organizing works. Anyone who questions that statement needn't look further than our current US president. By leveraging the grassroots, democratic "bottom-up" approach, President Barack Obama quite literally organized his way into office. He spent a great deal of time as an organizer prior to arriving in Washington, which is still apparent in the way he conducts himself during public appearances. He has a way of speaking to "the people" as if he is actually one of the people. Charging ordinary citizens to organize and act together on his behalf during the race played a key role in him securing a place in office.

I feel cheated by him though. He led me to believe that things would be different, that he would fight for me and you and every other American who was desperate for the change he boldly touted. But much like reaching the bottom of a Crackerjack box in anticipation of the golden horse promised, Obama has become my empty Crackerjack box of disappointment. The popcorn in those things tastes like cardboard, but we keep eating because we have blind faith that we are going to reach the bottom of the box where our prize awaits.

We believe it because it says so on the package and why would "they" lie to us? I bought a box of cereal with a label that read, "'gluten-free,' most-amazing-cereal-you've-ever-tasted-ever-ever-ever!" OK, that's probably not exactly how the label read, but you get my point.

So I get home all excited like to try this shiny new cereal, when at first bite I discover it's the same cereal I hate. It is dangerously crunchy (like, run out and make a dentist your new best friend if you wish to continue eating this cereal, crunchy), and completely flavorless. They changed the packaging! They tricked me! Or did they? It was right there in miniature print at the very bottom on the back of the box, "new packaging, same great taste!"

I didn't see it because I wasn't looking. And far too often we are not looking, but we must learn to do so. Our limited understanding of our own self-interests may unconsciously be leading us towards decisions that we wouldn't consciously make; instead of broadening our understanding of these self-interests, we quite often do not even acknowledge them. We are called to make that which is implicit, explicit, because whatever leads us to make the decisions we do must be understood. These decisions affect a great deal--our present and future, and those around us.

Alright, perhaps my cereal decision didn't impact the lives of anyone around me (with the exception of my new dentist), but my vote for Obama did. I didn't vote until he was up for election, as I'd never before been moved to do so. But I believed in the shiny package that was Obama, I thought he was the one who was going to make all the difference. The day I voted I sent my father a text that read, "Hey Wabes (yeah, that's what I call my dad), I just went out and cancelled your vote with mine. Obama or BUST (aka Canada)!" And boy was I proud of myself; but Obama isn't what's wrong with this country, nor is he what is right. We are. All of us. We must take responsibility; we must read the package and see beyond the shiny distractions meant to have us look no further; we must choose to become informed.

I'm not asking that you 'put down the idealism and slowly back away'; one needn't become disenchanted to decide to adopt an extra bit of curiosity. When something seems like the right choice, or someone the right candidate--the change that the world needs--perhaps indeed it is, or they are. But don't let our discovery stop there; take the time to look further, to ask questions, to have conversations and to challenge the "packaging." Rip open the box, dig to the bottom and see for yourself if the golden horse exists. That's what living democracy is all about. It's participatory and it's asking you and me to get involved. Now.

We must organize in productive ways. There is a far-reaching power in that. Organizing has the potential to propel our mission forward. Saul Alinsky said this: "The understanding of what constitutes a genuine native, indigenous leader is rarely found among conventional social do-gooders," and he was right. Sometimes you have to cross the lines, create some mole-holes in the pristine lawns of our current democratic system, and call attention to yourself, to your ideas.

Shannon Hoffman writes for PeaceVoice, studies democracy at Portland State University, and is a health care professional.

First 5 Tulare County Launches New Outreach

Christine Nelson, MD

What is the number one chronic disease affecting young children today? The answer will likely surprise you. It is early childhood caries – known more commonly as cavities.

Cavities in young children are five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever. Oral health is so critical in the first five years of life because it affects a child's overall health and development, with potentially serious and long-lasting consequences.

Poor oral health is a leading cause of school absences, it can cause problems eating which affects a child's nutrition; it affects school readiness and speech, and can affect self-esteem, keeping a child from smiling and engaging in conversation.

To address this important aspect of health among children ages 0 through 5, First 5 Tulare County funds early childhood oral health programs through Family HealthCare Network and the Tulare Community Health Clinic that provide screening for thousands of children each year.

In addition to screenings, children and parents are provided information about ways to keep young mouths healthy, fluoride varnish is applied and children needing treatment are referred to dentists.

As part of the emphasis on oral health education and treatment, First 5 Tulare County recently published a colorful and informative mini-magazine for parents.

"Healthy Teeth, Happy Child" is available at First 5 Tulare County's office in downtown Visalia and locations throughout Tulare County, and online at www.first5tc.org. The publication offers tips on how to care for teeth, and how to teach children to care for their own teeth, starting at a very young age.

Quick tips for caregivers, how to avoid "baby bottle tooth decay," what to expect from a visit to the dentist and more topics are addressed in an easy-to-read format.

First 5 Tulare County is funded by Proposition 10. Its mission is to enhance the early development of Tulare County's children by providing direct services, funding partner organizations and strengthening an integrated system of care serving children through age five, and their families.

The commissioners of First 5 Tulare County are proud of the work that the organization has done in the last 15 years – financially supporting school readiness and literacy, preschool classes, emergency care for premature infants, early childhood mental health, basic necessities and more.

Our emphasis on oral health provides an important new dimension to the full spectrum of programs now available for the youngest and most vulnerable in our communities. We are grateful to the many community partners who make our work possible and successful.

For more information, call First 5 Tulare County at 622-8650, or visit www.first5tc.org.

Christine Nelson, MD, is chair of the First 5 Tulare County Commission.

Columns & Letters

Devon Mathis Responds to Electoral Success

First I'd like to thank all of the amazing people of the 26th district who have exercised one the most fundamental rights of our great country by voting in this election. I would like to thank them for their continued support and belief in the return to prosperity that I have for the Great State of California. I would like to thank the members of my staff, especially Michael Bell my campaign coordinator, Danny Fiori my campaign treasurer, and Collier Azare who has provided invaluable consultation to the campaign. I'd also like to thank my family who have been there for me every step of the way. And lastly, I want to also thank the dedicated individuals of Veterans for Mathis. Without all of you, none of this would have been possible.

These are the first steps to making real and lasting change for the people of our district and all Californians. I remain dedicated to steering us away from the failures of the past so we can move forward to a prosperous future. Even though the road to victory is long, with your continued help and support, we will win in November and take the fight to Sacramento. It is time for the people of California to take control of their future and realize the return to prosperity can be a reality.

Devon Mathis

Macareno Encourages Reflection on Recent Election

I always look for the silver lining behind every experience. In this case my candidacy for state assembly. I ended up in the middle of a crowded field of seven candidates, not in the top two to advance to the general election. The silver lining? Yes meeting the voters and of course getting to know the candidates. However its also the opportunity to dissect my experience and that of others to develop a formula specific to Tulare County to win future elections. Thus, the birth of our elections academy.

We can't say, "Back to the drawing board," because its the first time going to the board at all for us Democrats here in Tulare County specifically immediately after an election. However, it is not a new concept. In fact the state Republican Party gathered a select number of its Assembly nominees June 10 in Sacrametno to strategize, find a message, with the hope of breaking the Democratic super-majority. It is simply what is done when you are behind in your political arena. For the state GOP, it is California. For us local Democrats, its Tulare County where no Democrats sit on the Board of Supervisors, State Assembly, State Senate or United States Congress that is jurisdictional to Tulare County?

So with the examination of the election the Blue Academy was born. An academy focused on winning. Something that has been long over due here. The idea is that of Democratic activist Grace Calderon whom had been asking that we establish an academy to prepare our candidates. Norma Burns, the vice President of the Tulare Democratic Club had also advocated that we initiate such a program. After the primary election I felt we could merge this idea with the principal focus of winning elections in Tulare County starting with local offices. Our activists', candidates' and campaigns' interest was immediate.

I have been fortunate to have had the experience of working for a large media giant that had to rebuild itself at a time when the internet was taking a big bite out of its revenue. The company had to regroup, refocus trim the fat to create a slick machine for less. Eventually the right formula was found but to stay competitive it has to be an ongoing task. The same could be said about politics. If our machine isn't working then we need to take it apart and rebuild it to be effective.

We plan on doing this via focus group meetings which are by invitation only for the simple reason that we want to keep on topic so that an effective plan of action can be developed. The findings of the Academy will also help the local Democratic Party find its solid role in assisting candidates and campaigns. There are a variety of combinations that produces winning campaigns and this is what we want to find and implement via the academy's findings.

The inaugural meeting will be with candidates and campaigns to discuss what worked well, what didn't, what is needed, how will we rectify this problem and what strategy will be recommended for implementation. I know what I could have done better, sooner and smarter and I will share that with the group. I would like to learn from them as well. The discussion will be in a round-table format. Then we will move on to our next focus group meeting with our political partners followed by activists/club leaders, Democratic consultants, fundraising specialists and so on.

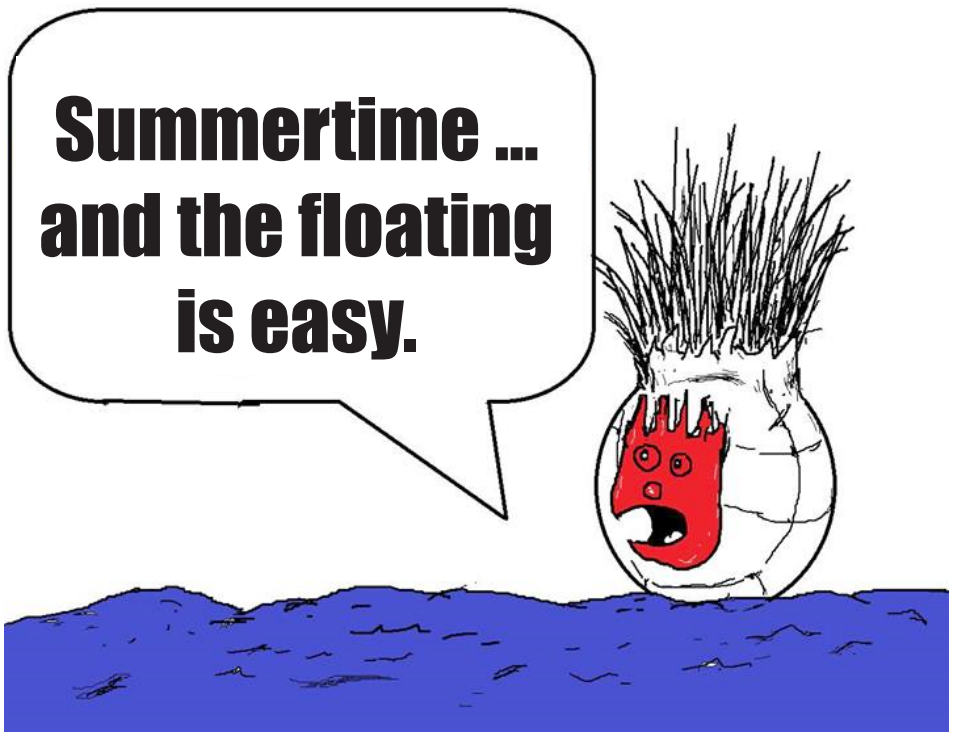
For now, congratulations to my Republican opponents Rudy Mendoza and Devon Mathis as they battle it out in November. For us Democrats, its to the gym to build up our political muscle and wallets. The steps we are taking are in the right direction for all of Tulare County.

I invite any interested Democrat who is considering taking part in some of our focus groups or has questions to send me an email, ruben.macareno@tularecdp.org, or call the Tulare County Democratic Party at 559-372-2126.

Ruben Macareno
Chairman
Tulare County Democratic Party

Black Tie

Alex Oldenbourg



Veteran's Corner

Compensation Benefits for Dependents

Joe Wright

When a veteran has a disability or disabilities that are rated by the VA at 30% or greater, disability compensation can be increased based on dependents. A claim for this increased benefit needs to be filed with the VA if there is any change in the status of the veteran's spouse and/or children.

Every year, veterans with dependents continue to lose compensation benefits because of the failure to file or re-file a claim for dependency status. Normally, increased compensation is paid for a child until age 18. The VA will recognize and pay veterans for their dependent children until age 23, so long as they are attending an accredited high school or college program.

On a child's 18th birthday, the VA will automatically drop the child if the appropriate school attendance form is not completed and returned to the local VA Regional Office.

If a child is attending school and drops out for any reason, the veteran must also notify VA or an over-payment status will result.

It is just as important to advise the VA or the Kings County Veterans Service Office of a new spouse or child as it is to advice them if the child is no longer attending school. If you need any help in keeping your dependency status current, please feel free to stop by our office anytime and we can assist you with the appropriate forms.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact Joe Wright if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the Web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.

Online Comments

Comment at ourvalleyvoice.com or fb.me/ourvalleyvoice

"It is so nice to see an article about the success that Jared Porter is having with his singing/song writing career.
With Jared growing up in Visalia this news is exciting to follow!
I have listened to Jared's music and believe that he could be our next big country music idol!"

— Donna Capwell, on Visalia Native Performs at 2014 Country Festival

"If you do not vote keep your mouth shut and do not complain."

— John Keyes, on Primary Election: Same Old Same Old

"Yes some people should toughen up. But that will just "allow" the bullying to continue. We need to put a STOP to bullying……..PERIOD!"

— desiree, on Porterville Mayor's Statements

"Less "colorful"??? His language is downright abusive and unprofessional. Even a lifetime of psychiatric rehab won't help him if he's that morally clueless..."

— Renee Lapin, on Porterville Mayor's Statements

"Gambling is pretty much legal, go to Indian land, Vegas or find a site on the Internet that is regulated by the government who makes laws, prostitution is the oldest profession and will never go away, legal or illegal, do we stop a 20 year old marrying a 80 year old for there money??
Because I doubt it's love all the time.
Murder OJ walked and so have others.. Look at the world it's corrupt, shooting up schools and children being raped…
And were worried about smoking pot..
How many people have gone on killing sprees while smoking a joint?
None cuz thier busy watching a movie and making poptarts. Get real America."

— James Mark, on Tulare County Supervisors' Vote to Ban Marijuana

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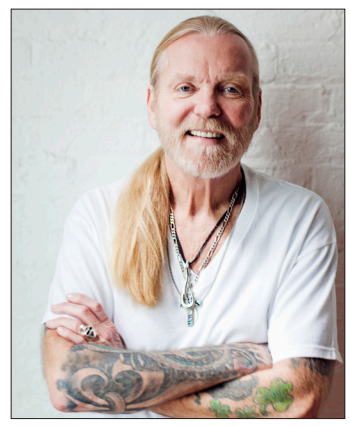
Gregg Allman to Headline Eagle Mountain Casino

Staff Reports

Gregg Allman will headline an 8pm show at Eagle Mountain Casino on June 27.

Allman is an American rock and blues singer, songwriter, keyboardist, guitarist and founding member of The Allman Brothers Band. He was inducted with the band into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995, and personally received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Music Hall of Fame in 2006. His distinctive voice placed him in 70th place in the *Rolling Stone* list of the "100 Greatest Singers of All Time."

At the beginning of the 1970s, The Allman Brothers Band enjoyed huge success: their album *Live at Filmore East* is widely regarded as one of the best live albums ever made, and a number of their most characteristic songs were written by Gregg Allman. While it was unusual at the time, the band was based in the Southeastern United States and the birth of "Southern Rock," began - a term Allman coined for their musical genre of fusion, rock, blues and country.


Gregg Allman

In spite of Duane Allman's death in 1971, and a year later, that of bass guitarist Berry Oakley, both in motorcycle accidents, the band continued to perform and record. In addition, Allman developed a solo career and a band under his own name. Allman's solo music has perhaps a greater resonance of soul music than his work with the Allman Brothers Band, possibly because of the influence of artists such as Bobby Bland and Little Milton, singers he has long admired. He had his biggest solo hit in 1986 with the title track from *I'm No Angel.*

Despite recent health issues, Allman still tours. His latest album, *Low Country Blues*, is a return to the blues. It was released in 2011 and includes "Just Another Rider," written by Allman.

In 2012, Allman decided to share his struggles and triumphs with others in his memoir, *My Cross to Bear.* "When I got out of high school, I thought, 'I'll take a year or two off and play the clubs, get this out of my system, and then go to med school," he explained. "More than 40 years later, I figure it's finally time to write about this crazy journey that's taken me around the world and back."

"Gregg is a legend in the music industry and we are pleased to present him to our guests," said Jim Valencia, public relations coordinator for Eagle Mountain Casino.

Tickets ($45, $35) are available at www.eaglemtncasino.com and through the casino gift shop, (800) 903-3353.

Ryan Bernal leads all drivers with 18 career victories and six Tulare wins.
Photo by Lance Jennings

USAC West Coast Sprint Cars Invade Tulare Thunderbowl on June 21st

Lance Jennings

On Saturday, June 21st, the powerful USAC West Coast Sprint Cars will invade Tulare's Merle Stone Chevrolet Thunderbowl Raceway for the fourth and final time in 2014. The action-packed card will also showcase the IMCA Modifieds and RaceSaver Wing Sprint Cars. The spectator gates will open at 4:30pm, time trials at 6:30pm, with racing to follow at 7pm.

Looking for his first series win, Markus Niemela of Rauma, Finland, leads the point standings and will battle a talented roster of drivers. Currently 11th in points, Hollister's Ryan Bernal has won the last four main events, including May 17th and May 31st at Tulare. Dennis Howell of Rancho Palos Verdes earned his first main event triumph at Tulare on March 14th while rain cancelled the April 26th race. To date, Bernal leads all drivers with 18 career victories, six Tulare wins, and holds the one-lap qualifying track record of 15.158 set on October 8, 2011.

Tracy's Austin Liggett, the 2012 Rookie of the Year, earned his first victory at Las Vegas on March 6th. Troy Rutherford of Ojai claimed the March 22nd Bakersfield event and Visalia's Jace Vander Weerd won Hanford's "Gary Jacob Memorial" on March 29th. Bernal's other wins came at Watsonville on May 16th and June 7th at Hanford. 2011 Champion Richard Vander Weerd of Visalia scored the non-point $5,000-to-win "Winter Challenge" finale in Peoria, Arizona, on February 1st.

Among the other drivers expected to be in action are Matt Mitchell, defending champion "Hollywood" Danny Faria Jr., Nic Faas, "Shifter" Landon Hurst, Marty Hawkins, Kevin Barnes, "The Wild Child" Chris Ennis, Jeff Sibley, Garrett Long, Matt Day, Trent Carter, Davey Pombo, Connor Kassik, T.J. Smith and more.

Tulare's Merle Stone Chevrolet Thunderbowl Raceway is located at the Tulare County Fairgrounds at the corner of Bardsley and K Streets. Reserved tickets are $15 and general admission seats are $13. Advance tickets are on sale and can be purchased by calling the track office at 688-0909. For more event information, visit www.tularethunderbowl.com.

For more information on the USAC West Coast Sprint Cars, visit www.westcoastsprintcars.com or www.usacracing.com. You can also follow the series on Facebook or Twitter.

Freedom Fest Set for Saturday, June 20

Staff Reports

The Fourth Annual Freedom Fest, sponsored by the City of Porterville, the Tule River Indian Tribe and Sierra View District Hospital, offers activities for all ages, including a live band, a kid's zone full of water slides and inflatable fun, an array of local food and craft vendors, a beer garden and more.

The finale to the evening will be a spectacular display of fireworks in celebration of the Independence holiday. Attendees are advised to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

Gates open at 4pm and festivities kick off at 5pm. The fireworks show will begin at 9pm. The cost of admission is per carload is $5 in advance and $10 the day of the event. Wristbands for the kid's zone are $3 in advance and $5 the day of the event. Tickets are available during normal business hours at the Heritage Center, 256 E. Orange Ave., Porterville, and at Parks and Leisure Services in City Hall. An online coupon is available at www.ci.porterville.ca.us that will allow you to secure the advance sale ticket prices. Print out the Freedom Fest coupon and present it at the event to receive the discounted prices.

Visit the website for more information or call 791-7695.

Motel Drive to Release New CD at Cellar Door Show on June 27

Steve Pastis

Motel Drive, which will release their new CD at their June 27th show at the Cellar Door in Visalia, perform American roots music, which lead singer/guitarist J.D. Goodwin described as "a combination of country, blues and rock n' roll – like the great American bands of the '50s, '60s and even '40s."

The band's musical influences include the Stray Cats, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Chuck Berry, who "kind of made rock n' roll what it is today." The band's music has also been shaped by country acts such as Hank Williams, George Jones and Hank Snow.

Motel Drive (without Vince Ellis, who joined the band last month)

"I hesitate to call (our music) rock n' roll because we play a mix of everything," said Goodwin. "It's working man's music, something the average person can relate to."

This reflects a major change for Goodwin, who used to perform with Cacti Widders, which he described as "more punk rock."

"You evolve and you grow," he said. "I'm 34 and married and have a different outlook than I did before."

Motel Drive, which was formed in 2008, also includes Jake Finney, whom Goodwin met when he was 9 "and we've been best buds ever since. He convinced me to get a guitar because he got a bass."

Vince Ellis jammed with the band with his guitar and his lap steel for quite some time before becoming "a great addition to the band."

MOTEL DRIVE continued on **23 »**

Visalia Players to Present 'Moonlight and Magnolias'

Nancy Holley

Picture this! The film version of Margaret Mitchell's epic novel Gone with the Wind has just gone into production when producer David O. Selznick fires the screenwriter and the director. Selznick foresees Sidney Howard's six-hour screenplay as a disaster, yet he believes the story can be an enormous hit. He selects Ben Hecht, winner of two academy awards, to rewrite the screenplay, and he pulls director Victor Fleming from the stage of "The Wizard of Oz" to manage the actors.

The catch? The rewrite has to be done immediately and Hecht has never read the novel. Locked in Selznick's office with bananas and popcorn for brain food, Hecht, Fleming and Selznick go to work. Their only connection with the outside world is Selznick's assistant Miss Poppenghul.

"Moonlight and Magnolias" is a zany comedy laced with truth. To help Hecht understand the story in the shortest time possible, Selznick and Fleming act out scenes from the novel. For those familiar with "Gone with the Wind," it is easy to imagine the hilarity that ensues when they demonstrate Prissy's knowledge of "birthin' babies."

Sergio Garza as David O. Selznick, Joseph Troncozo as Victor Fleming, and Keith Lindersmith as Ben Hecht.

The actors are delighted to portray real people. Keith Lindersmith (Hecht) was intrigued to learn that Hecht "was the first screenwriter to receive an academy award." Sergio Garza (Selznick) commented, "It is very cool to be playing a real person. I don't have a lot to go on, but I'm depending on the script to build my interpretation of him."

Featured in "Moonlight and Magnolias" are: Sergio Garza (right) as David O. Selznick, Joseph Troncozo as Victor Fleming.

Joseph Troncozo (Fleming) is new to the Ice House and to the stage, but is having a great time. Troncozo describes Fleming as "rough around the edges. Men liked to work for him but women did not."

Leeni Mitchell (Poppenghul) is puzzled that the playwright did not give her character the name of a real person. "Selznick had an assistant, Marcella Rebwin. I wonder why I don't have her name."

Donny Graham enjoys directing the show. "I'm very excited about the talent of the cast. I have experienced actors and a neophyte, each researching his or her character and working very hard to make them come alive."

On Sunday, July 6, after the matinee, "Back Stage at the Ice House" will be hosted by Sharon DeCoux, a veteran Visalia Player. Audience members will have an opportunity for a behind-the-scenes look at the show and the opportunity to ask questions and interact with cast and crew.

"Moonlight and Magnolias" runs for three weekends at the Ice House Theater at Race and Santa Fe in Visalia. Evening performances are at 7:30pm on June 27 and 28, and July 5, 11 and 12, and matinees are at 2pm on June 29 and July 6, 12 and 13. (Note: There is no performance on Friday, July 4.)

To purchase tickets, visit www.visaliaplayers.org, the "Visalia Community Players" Facebook page, or call 734-3900.

Tulare Historical Museum Showcases Mosaics and Pottery

"From Earth to Rock," the current exhibit in The Tulare Historical Museum's Heritage Art Gallery features Gene Rubey's lovely mosaics and Piet Eppinga's graceful pottery. The exhibit will be on display until July 26.

Rubey was born in Loma Linda and raised in the San Bernardino area. After high school and college, he joined the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and served as a motorcycle officer. He was transferred to the Woodland area and assigned to the northern area as a pilot, patrolling from Auburn to San Francisco. It was there in 1965 that he met a mosaic artist and started to make wall hangings.

Rubey was transferred to Santa Barbara as a sergeant, and later to Coalinga as a lieutenant. He gave art a rest during this period, but after being transferred to Visalia as a captain, he became active again in mosaics. Now in his retirement, he has a studio at his residence.

Mosaic by Gene Rubey

"It is most gratifying," he said, "to have people enthusiastically buying these mosaic productions."

Eppinga's interest in clay dates back to the day when a dump truck delivered a load of white sand that contained boulder size chunks of light gray clay to his family farm in the Netherlands. The sand had been excavated from a local sandpit and Eppinga and his brothers were fascinated by the chunks of clay. They pinched bowls and made human and animal figures.

Pottery by Piet Eppinga

The clay gives Eppinga "a direct link to his ancient ancestors." The connection he feels with clay workers from long ago is reflected in his pottery. The narrow neck vases and bottles he makes are thrown on a potter's wheel. He uses a carving tool to carve a foot on the bottom, but he does not carve any other part of his vases and bottles. The urns he makes, like the bottles and vases, are peaceful, earthy and gracefully shaped. Art professor Richard Flores, from College of the Sequoias, and potter Craig Easter have been very influential in Eppinga's development and in his search for his own identity as a ceramic artist.

The museum is located at 444 W. Tulare Ave., Tulare. Hours of operation are 10am to 4pm Thursday - Saturday. Admission is $5 for adults, $3 for seniors (55+) and Southern California Automobile Club members, $2 for students, and free for Tulare City Historical Society members and children under 5 years old.

Rawhide to Host Fundraiser for Fallen Deputy's Family on June 22nd

On Sunday, June 22nd, the Visalia Rawhide will pay tribute to fallen Tulare County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Meyst at Rawhide Ballpark. Deputy Meyst lost his life last Christmas Eve while on duty. He is survived by his wife and two children.

The Rawhide will host a fundraiser, in partnership with the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association, for the Meyst family. The family will be treated to a ballgame that includes interactive booths and a pregame softball match between the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Visalia Police Officer's Association. Proceeds from each ticket purchased through TCDSA will be donated to the Meyst family.

Fundraiser game tickets can be purchased through TCDSA at 704 W. Main St., Visalia, or by calling 636-1199. Tickets range from $8-$10, and must be purchased in advance.

ImagineU Offers Summer Events

Donna Orozco

"Science, Stories and Scribbles" is a writing camp being offered by ImagineU Children's Museum from June 30-July 3. This camp will not only offer children lots of fun and stimulation, but will encourage writing each day. Writing is a large component of the new Common Core educational standards.

Each day, children will create a written piece. Each participant will receive an anthology of all the writings for the week. The schedule includes:

Monday, June 30: Food Doodles and Diamonds - Cook up a diamond of words. Decorate your plate with food art. And best of all, learn how to eat a healthy, yummy meal.

Tuesday, July 1: Secret Drums - Do you know the little things that beat inside us? Come, discover and hear the rhythm -- let it inspire you to express the music you feel!

Wednesday, July 2: Rock Star for a Day - Learn to make your own song. Then perform it with music and/or costumes on stage!

Thursday, July 3: The Puppet Pageant - Craft a puppet and join the show! What story can your character tell?

The class will be presented by Diana Hallare, a kindergarten-through-college educator, writer, public speaker and consultant. She is a member of California Poets in the Schools and the National Storytelling Network.

Thanks to a partial sponsorship from the City of Visalia Arts program, the cost of each camp is only $3 for members and $8 for non-members. Participants must register and pay ahead of time. Call 733-5975.

Family Nights

ImagineU has added something new for the summer for families that can't get to the museum during regular hours. Family nights will be held the fourth Friday in June, July and August from 6-8pm.

On Friday, June 27, besides enjoying all the interactive exhibits at the museum, children can make a geodesic dome out of gumdrops.

The cost for family camp is the same as regular admittance: $5 for adults and children 2 and over, and free for children under 2.

For more information, call 733-5975 or go to www.imagineumuseum.

Professional Guided Tours Now Available for Majestic Mountain Loop

Staff Reports

Visitors to three of California's National Parks can now sit back and enjoy the sights, sounds, historical perspective and colorful commentary without having to drive. Travelers now have the option of seeing Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks with an experienced tour guide while on the Majestic Mountain Loop.

Jackie Cross, travel agent and owner of Central California In-Bound, is the newest partner to the Majestic Mountain Loop (MML) campaign. Cross is committed to personalizing the MML experience by arranging transportation, professionally guided tours, accommodations, meals and additional vacation experiences sought by visitors to the National Parks and Central California region. For more information on the Majestic Mountain Loop or to book a tour, visit www.majesticmountainlooptours.com.

Tunnel Log

"This is wonderful news," said Rhonda Jorn, marketing/PR manager with Fresno Yosemite International Airport. "Currently, a large percentage of visitors to the national parks fly in or drive in and self-drive their vacation experience. Since we kicked off the MML campaign, we've received numerous calls to purchase a guided tour. This completes the campaign. Jackie saw the opportunity in this project for the entire region and has stepped up to make it happen."

The Giant Forest Museum

Initial tours will host 15 passengers and depart twice a week from Fresno Yosemite International Airport and Visalia to begin the three-day National Parks MML adventure. Day one of the tour begins with breakfast at a citrus farm in Visalia, then off to Sequoia National Park for some sightseeing at the Giant Forest Museum, Morro Rock, Tunnel Log and the famous General Sherman Tree. After spending the night in the area, day two is spent exploring Kings Canyon National Park. From Kings Canyon, participants travel to Oakhurst for dinner and an overnight stay before trekking off to Yosemite National Park on day three. Introductory pricing for the tours are $849 per person, which includes overnight accommodations, meals, amenities and some unique Majestic Mountain Loop swag.

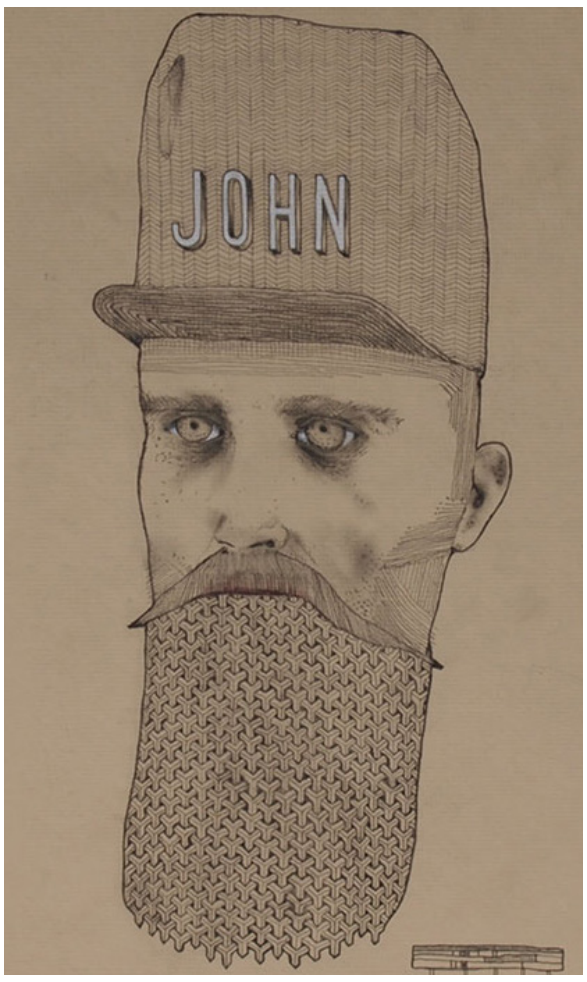
"This is a great opportunity for travelers to enjoy Visalia with its picturesque Main Street boasting gourmet dining with farm fresh seasonal menus, and boutique shopping, plus a look into the farms that supply the world's produce before or after their trip to the National Parks," said Gail Zurek, tourism & marketing manager with Visalia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Majestic Mountain Loop tourism campaign has won the Best Idea Award from the Western Association of Visitors and Convention Bureaus, and the prestigious Poppy Award from Visit California for Best Collaborative Regional Marketing Campaign.

General Sherman Tree

NEXT DEADLINE:
26 JUNE 2014

Owl John to Land on Cellar Door Stage on June 21



Owl John, aka Scott Hutchison of critically acclaimed Scottish group Frightened Rabbit, will headline an 8pm 21+ show at The Cellar Door in Downtown Visalia on Saturday, June 21. He took a moment to explain his name.

"It's been about ten years since I had the notion to add the word 'Owl' as a middle name – Scott Owl John Hutchison," he said. "I thought it had a really splendid flow to it. I suppose I enjoy owls as much as most people, admiring their weird neck thing and having read 'Plop' countless times as a wee one. I don't buy the wisdom bit, but they are incredibly good at being owls and it would be nice to be as effective at being a human."

Hutchison recently announced the release of his self-titled debut album, out August 5 on Canvasback Music/Atlantic Records. The record, produced by Andy Monaghan of Frightened Rabbit and good friend Simon Liddell of Olympic Swimmers, was recorded between the Isle of Mull in Scotland and the West Coast of America.

The album, which showcases Hutchison's trademark brutal honesty, sees a different direction from the music of Frightened Rabbit. While remaining raw, powerful and often heartbreaking, 'Owl John' shows a different side of Scott as a songwriter.

Hutchison hails from Selkirk, Scotland, and formed Frightened Rabbit with his brother Grant (drums), bassist Billy Kennedy and guitarist Monaghan in 2003. They have released four studio albums to date.

Withered Hand will open the show. Tickets are $10.

Judson Claiborne

Judson Claiborne to Headline Cellar Door June 28

Chicago's Judson Claiborne play atmospheric rock with dark and dreamy grooves. The band will be performing at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia, a stop on their current tour in support of their latest release, *We Have Not Doors*.

While making this album, group leader Christopher Salveter became intrigued by the idea that people do more communicating with their physical selves than with language--that the texture and tonality of our voices and the movements of bodies are often more honest than written or spoken language. The album's title speaks to letting our collective guard down in order to communicate.

Long Beach-based We Are Traitors will kick off the night. The band makes instantly grabbing "pop n' roll music," as they call it. Their big choruses are anthem-like and fun.

Tickets for the 8pm 21+ show are $5 and available at ticketweb.com. For more information, visit snvfoundation.org.

Join us for Saturday Lunch
11:30 am - 2:00 pm
The Southern Pacific Depot Restaurant
Reservations • www.depotvisalia.com
(559) 732-8611
207 East Oak Avenue, Visalia

Budweiser

MUSIC

June

June 19 & 26 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

June 20-August 29 – Rockin' the Arbor – 6-10pm
On Friday nights, Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino will present Rockin' the Arbor, featuring live music, food vendors and family activities at 300 E Street. Featured bands include: August June 20; Randy Deaver and Crossfire June 27; Motel Drive, July 11; Roadhouse July 18; Prestige July 25; 82 Deluxe Aug 1; Midnight Wine August 8; Force 'Em Aug 15; Rockville Aug 22; and The Fabulous Enchantments Aug 29. For information, call 924-6401.

June 20 – KJUG Summer Concert Series – 7-8:30pm
Momentum Broadcasting/KJUG Free Summer Concert Series is returning to Exeter at Chestnut between E & D streets. Lindsay Ell will perform. Sponsored by Culligan Water Conditioning, Monarch Ford, Exeter Meats an Processing and City of Exeter. For information, visit kjug.com.

June 21 – Downtown Summer Jam – 5-10pm
A to Z Entertainment Productions & Mobile DJ's of Visalia will present a free concert in downtown Visalia's Garden Street Plaza. Ghosts in Pocket, For the Record, The Green Machine and Lance Canales and the Flood will perform. For information, visit downtownvisalia.com.

June 21 – Owl John & Withered Hand – 8-10pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Owl John, featuring Scott of Frightened Rabbits, and Withered Hand at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $10. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

June 27 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm
Patti Torrey and River Ridge Irregulars will perform. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

June 27 – Motel Drive CD Release Party – 9:30pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Motel Drive with special guests and DeeJay Savage Salvador at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $10. A free CD will be given with ticket purchase. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

June 28 – Berner Live in Tulare – 8pm
Valley Bay Entertainment will present Berner Live at the Tulare County Fairgrounds, 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Tulare. Doors open at 7pm; show starts at 8pm. Tickets $20 for general admission, $50 for V.I.P (V.I.P includes V.I.P lanyard that makes a great souvenir, backstage access, preferred seating, 1 beer ticket and the possibility to meet artist - must be 18 to go backstage and over 21 to redeem beer ticket). Tickets available online, at the fairgrounds office or purchased at the gate. For information call the fairgrounds at 686-4707, 9am-5pm.

June 28 – Judson Claiborn, We Are Traitors – 8-10pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Judson Claiborn and We Are Traitors at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $5. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

June 29 – 5th Sunday Sing – 6pm
The Lighthouse Boys, who are on tour celebrating 40 years in gospel music, will perform at the Church of the Nazarene, 233 Homassel Ave., in Lindsay. A free-will offering will be taken.

July

July 4 – AJM Band – 9:30pm
AJM Band will perform a Red, White and Blues show in the Koy Wae Lounge of Tachi Palace Hotel and Casino in Lemoore. For information, visit reverbnation.com.

July 5 – 2 Love or 2 Hate – 8-10pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present 2 Love or 2 Hate and Burning Bridges at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $6. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

July 11 – Ron Thompson & the Resisters at Blues, Brews & BBQ – 6-10pm
Budweiser will present this free concert at Garden Street Plaza in Downtown Visalia. Ice cold drinks and BBQ will be available for purchase.

July 11 – Springville Concerts in the Park – 7-9pm
Lake Bottom will perform at the Springville Concerts in the Park. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. For information, visit thecenterofspringville.com.

July 11 – Alabama - All American Tour – 7:30pm
Alabama will perform at Tachi Palace. Tickets, $40, $50, $60, $70, $85, $150, are available at tachipalace.com.

July 11 – Zzah – 8-10pm
The jazz group Zzah will perform at Farmer's Fury, 358 West D, Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

July 11 – The Chop Tops & Jailbreak! – 9pm
Sound N Vision Foundation will present Dee Jay Tucker Boy, Jailbreak! and The Chop Tops at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ concert are $10. For tickets and information, visit snvfoundation.org.

July 12 – Visalia Concerts in the Park – 6-8pm
On the second Saturday of every month through November, Visalia Parks & Recreation present Concerts in the Park.

EVENTS

June

Through-Aug. 20 – Farmers Market at Quail Park – 10:30am-1:30pm
Quail Park Retirement Village will host a Farmers Market every Wednesday through August 20 at 4520 W. Cypress Ave., Visalia. For information, call 624-3500.

June 19 – Pacific Employers Safety Programs Seminar – 10-11:30am
Pacific Employers and the Tulare-Kings Builders Exchange will host a seminar at the Builders Exchange at 1223 S. Lovers Lane in Visalia. RSVP to Pacific Employers at 733-4256. The mid-morning seminars include refreshments and handouts. For information, visit pacificemployers.com.

June 19 – Main Street Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm
Square One will be the featured entertainment at the Thursday Night Market Place in Downtown Hanford. The theme for the evening will be Beach Party, featuring Hawaiian shirts and a dune buggy car show. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

June 19 – Visalia Chamber of Commerce 61st Annual Awards Banquet
Each year, the Visalia Chamber honors businesses and individuals who consistently go above and beyond to support the community. The banquet will be held at the Visalia Convention Center. For information, visit visaliachamber.org.

June 19 – Throwback Thursday – 6pm
Tachi Palace Fights present Throwback Thursday TPF 19. Tickets available at tachipalace.com.

June 20, 27 – Lemoore Friday Night Market – 5-9pm
Every Friday Night, the Downtown Lemoore Merchants Association hosts live music, a beer garden, produce vendors and more through October on D Street. For information, call 924-9040.

June 20 – Supervisor Harassment Prevention Workshop – 9-11am
Visalia Chamber of Commerce will host this workshop in the Mangano Room of the chamber office, 220 N. Santa Fe St. The interactive training meets the requirements of California AB 1825 which requires all employers with 50 or more employees to provide supervisors with training. Cost is $20 members and $40 non-members. To register, call 625-4800.

June 20 - Juneteenth – 5-9pm
Hanford Parks and Recreation will host the Third Annual Juneteenth Celebration which commemorates the anniversary of June 19, 1865, when slaves in Texas learned they were free more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. The term Juneteenth is a combination of the words June and nineteenth. Barbecue, activities and other events will be held at the Longfield Community Center.

June 20 – Dinuba Farmers' Market Grand Opening – 5-9pm
Dinuba Farmers' Market Grand Opening – Market will take place at 289 South L Street in Downtown Dinuba, in effort to fight an epidemic of obesity and its life-threatening complications in Tulare County. The market will take place on Fridays and will run for six weeks, with the exception of July 3, to honor the 4th of July.

June 20, 27, July 3, 11, 18, 25 – Downtown Dinuba Certified Farmers' Market – 5-9pm
Local fresh fruits and vegetables, food vendors, music, games, prizes and bounce houses. For information, call 591-5940.

June 20-August 29 – Rockin' the Arbor – 6-10pm
On Friday nights, Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will present Rockin' the Arbor, featuring live music, food vendors and family activities at 300 E Street. For information, call 924-6401.

June 21-22 – Rocky Mountain Gun Show - 9am
Rocky Mountain Gun Show will be held at the Visalia Convention Center. Admission is $10; children 12 & under, free. On Saturday the event ends at 5pm, and Sunday at 4pm. For information, visit rockymountaingunshow.com.

June 21 – 2014 Brewfest
Brewfest at Kings Fairgrounds, 801 W. 10th Ave., Hanford, will feature live music food and a selection of beers. Tickets, $45, include briefest t-shirt and barbecue plate. Tickets are available at ralphbpresents.com.

June 21 – Battle of the Badges
Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association, Porterville Police Department, CHP, Lindsay Police Department, State Police, K9 Teams, SWAT & CDC will battle it out at Plaza Park in Visalia. Entry fee per team is $350. Proceeds will benefit the families of fallen Deputy Jeremy Meyst and CHP officer Jesus Magdelano, Jr. For information call Joe Landin 786-2525 or John Dow 804-1768.

June 21 – USAC West Coast Sprint Car Series – 4:30pm
USAC West Coast Sprint Cars will invade Tulare's Merle Stone Chevrolet Thunderbowl Raceway for the fourth and final time in 2014. The series will also showcase the IMCA Modifieds and RaceSaver Wing Sprint Cars. The spectator gates will open at 4:30pm, time trials at 6:30pm, with racing to follow at 7pm. For information, visit www.westcoastsprintcars.com.

June 21, 28 – Visalia Farmers Market – 8-11:30pm
Open year around, the market, corner of S. Mooney and W. Caldwell, offers fresh local produce, cooking demonstrations and entertainment. For information, visit visaliafarmersmarket.com.

June 21 – Tommy's Luau - Fundraiser For America's Mighty Warriors
In memory of Navy Seal Tommy Retzer, a fundraiser for America's Mighty Warriors will be held at Visalia Elks Lodge, 3100 W.

VENT CALENDAR

Main St. Tickets are $20. Hawaiian attire is mandatory. An authentic luau with entertainment, music, dancing, cocktails, and raffles are featured. Tickets are available at Drill Sargent's Military Supply and Biker Gear, 3737 W. Caldwell Ave., Visalia, or at the Lodge.

June 21 – 6th Annual Guest Chef Series – 5:30pm
Family Services of Tulare County holds its signature fundraising event. This year's Presidential-themed soirée will transport guests to Federal City for an elegant, fun-filled evening of creative cuisine, fine wine and live entertainment. Washington D.C. chef and former White House employee Michael Ratzlaff will dazzle guests with his salute to the classic American fare presidents and dignitaries enjoy at state dinners. Admission is $150. Make reservations online at fstc.net (click on donate). For information, visit facebook.com/events/302967913186930.

June 22 – Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association Benefit – 5pm
Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association will take on the Visalia Police Department in a pre-game softball battle at Rawhide Ballpark. After the game, Visalia Rawhide will play the San Jose Giants. Tickets are $10. Proceeds will benefit the family of fallen Deputy Jeremy Meyst. To purchase tickets, call 300-2125. For information, visit facebook.com/pages/Tulare-County-Deputy-Sheriffs-Association.

June 25 – Lunch 'n' Learn – 12-1:30pm
The Professional Latin American Association will hold a presentation on "Retaining Talent" as part of its Lunch 'n' Learn Leadership Development Series. The event is held at the KCAO Main Office, 1130 N. 11th Ave., Hanford. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion from the office of Assemblyman Rudy Salas and the Professional Latin American Association. To reserve a seat, email plaakings@yahoo.com or call Carol Hernandez at 482-7515.

June 26 – Main Street Hanford Thursday Night Market Place – 5:30-9pm
Midnight Wine will be the featured entertainment at the Thursday Night Market Place in downtown Hanford. The theme for the evening will be Health and Wellness. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

June 27 – Independence Day Celebration Golf Tournament – 8am
Lemoore American Legion Post 100 will hold a golf tournament featuring a 4-person scramble. For information and registration, call 707-4840.

June 28 – Porterville Freedom Fest – 5-9:30pm
A fireworks show, Kids Zone, food booths, and more will be featured at Porterville Freedom Fest held at the Sports Complex. Gates open at 4pm. The Fireworks Show begins at 9pm. The cost of admission is per carload; $5 in advance and $10 at the gate. Wristbands for the kid's zone are $3 in advance and $5 the day of. All can be purchased during normal business hours at the Heritage Center, 256 E. Orange Avenue, Porterville or at Parks and Leisure Services in City Hall. For information, visit ci.porterville.ca.us/depts/parksandleisure.

June 28 – Exeter Cruise Night - 4pm
Exeter Cruise Night will be held at the Frosty King, 279 E. Pine St.

July 3 – Thursday Night Market Place - Red, White & Blues Night – 5:30-9pm
Red, White and Blues will be the Hanford Thursday Night Market Place theme. Electric Grease (blues/West Coast jump) will be the featured entertainment. Fresh produce, beer garden, live band, D.J., local vendors, kids activities and theme nights are featured every Thursday night through September in downtown Hanford. For information, visit mainstreethanford.com.

July 3 – Woodlake July 3rd Blast
The celebration will be held at Miller Brown Park in downtown Woodlake. Vendors, kids games, bounce houses, music and events will be featured. For info, visit woodlakekiwanis.

THEATER

June

June 20-22 – Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella – 7pm
Christ Lutheran Church and the League of Christian Actors present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" at the Visalia Fox Theatre. A matinee show will also be held June 21 at 2 pm. Tickets, $12-$18, available at foxvisalia.org.

June 21 – Batteries Not Included
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Science Film Series will be held every Saturday through July 19 in the Purple Room, Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Ave. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

June 21 – Dive-In Movies – 6pm
"Pitch Perfect" will be shown at the Summer Night Lights Dive-in Movies program at Mt. Whitney High School pool, 900 S. Conyer St., Visalia. The program, which runs through July 26, features free movies and swim time. The pool opens at 6pm and the movie begins at dusk. Snacks, blankets and lawn chairs are permitted. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

June 21 – Movies in the Park
A Sing-A-Long to the Disney movie "Frozen" will be featured at the Visalia Parks and Recreation movies in the park. Held every Saturday at dusk at Riverway Sports Park, 3611 N. Dinuba Blvd., Visalia, Movies in the Park allows residents to enjoy a movie on a giant screen. Lawn chairs, blankets and picnics are permitted. Film descriptions and ratings available online at liveandplayvisalia.com.

June 26 – Voyage – 7pm
JAOPRO, Etco Mariene and Giant Chevrolet present a free showing of "Voyage," a documentary film, at the Visalia Fox Theatre. For information, visit foxvisalia.org.

June 27-28, July 4-5 & 11-12 – Moonlight and Magnolias – 7pm
(See page 18.)

KIDS

Through July 25 – Sizzlin' Summer Day Camp
Hanford Parks and Recreation will operate a summer day camp at the Teen Center, 400 N. Douty St. For information, visit ci.hanford.ca.us.

Through Aug 1–Valley Oak SPCA Critter Camp
Critter Camp offers summer fun for youth ages 5-12 with activities, crafts, and guest speakers. The camp will be Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm at Valley Oak SPCA Animal Shelter and Adoption Center, 29016 Highway 99, Visalia. Camps for ages 8-12 will be held on June 16-20, June 23-27, July 7-11, and July 14-18. Camps for ages 5-7 will be held July 21-25, July 28-August 1. To register, visit vospca.org or Valley Oak SPCA.

Through Aug 8 – Porterville Summer Day Camp – 7:30am-5:30pm
The Porterville Heritage Center is offering summer day camp for children ages 5-12. Activities, crafts, sack lunches and snacks will be provided. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is $80 for full days/full-week, $50 for half days/full week; $20 full-day drop-in and $10 for half-day drop-in. A $5 discount is available for siblings of full-week participants. The center is located at 256 E. Orange Ave. For information, call 791-7695.

Through Aug 8 – Rockin' the Rec – 7am-6pm
Lemoore Parks and Recreation will host weekly summer day camps for children ages 5-12. Camp is an all-day program with breakfast and lunch provided by the KCAO Food Program. Activities include arts and crafts, indoor and outdoor activities, swimming, movies, picnics and a weekly field trip. Each week has a different theme with structured events developed around the theme. Cost is $120 a week, $420 for 4 weeks; and $820 for all 9 weeks. Registration required. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

Through Aug 8 – The Loop Bus – 12:30-6:30pm
A free bus is provided to youth, ages 6-17 years, to Visalia Community Recreation Centers Monday through Friday. Youth must pre-register to use the service. Call 713-4365.

Through Aug 8 – Kamp Kaboom – 7:30am-5:30pm
The Whitendale Community Center is offering summer day camp for children ages 5-12. Activities, crafts, snack lunches and snacks will be provided. Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis. Cost is $100 for full week, $20 full-day drop-in and $10 for half-day. The center is located at 630 W. Beech, Visalia. For information, call 713-4365.

Through Summer – Summer Food Rocks – 12-1pm
A nutritional lunch is available to kids 18 years and younger Monday through Friday at Anthony Community Center, Manuel F. Hernandez Community Center and Whitendale Community Center in Visalia. Meals are free, but kids are required to eat lunch on site. For information call Visalia Parks and recreation at 713-4365.

June 19, 26 – Summer Reading Program – 11am-3pm
Starting in June, the Visalia Branch of the Tulare County Library will hold a summer reading program for children and tweens. Kids are encouraged to sign up to receive prizes for reading. For information, call 713-2731.
June 19 & Aug 1 – Preschool Enrollment
Lindsay Unified School District will accept preschool applications. The preschool office staff will be out for the summer between June 19 and Aug 1 and won't be available to accept applications. Applications are available at the Preschool Office, 211 Learning Lane, or by sending an email to CDoria@lindsay.k12.ca.us.

June 19 & 26 – Bilingual Story Time – 1:15pm
Every Thursday, Tulare Public Library hosts a bilingual family story time in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

June 19 – Allensworth Game Night – 5-8pm
Summer Night Lights will present a Game Night at Allensworth School. Admission is free. For information, call 564-8055.

June 20 & 27 – Preschool Story-time – 11:15am
Every Friday, Preschool Story-time is held at Tulare Public Library in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

June 20, 27, July 3, 11, 18, 25 – Dinuba Summer Night Lights – 7-9:30pm
Games, music food, and free activities will be held at Entertainment Plaza, 289 S. L St., Dinuba. For information, call 591-5940.

June 20 – Visalia Teen Idol Auditions– 10am-5pm
Teens, ages 13-19, who live within the Visalia Unified School District boundaries are eligible to participate in the Visalia Teen Idol auditions held at the Anthony Community Center, 345 N. Jacob, Visalia. There is no fee to audition. For information, call 713-IDOL.

June 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25 & Aug. 1 – Friday Summer Night Lights in Visalia – 6-9pm
The Summer Night Lights Program, sponsored by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, includes games, music, activities, and food. Events will also be held: June 27th, Boys and Girls Club (Tulare Ave. Location); July 11th, Rawhide Baseball Stadium; July 18th, Manuel Hernandez Community Center; July 25th, Boys and Girls Club (Tulare Ave. Location); Aug. 1, Riverway Sports Park. For information, visit stepuptc.com.

June 20 – Summer Night Lights – 6:30-9:30pm
Every Saturday Night through July 30, the County of Tulare offers Summer Night Lights, a program that aims to curb violence and other negative activity by keeping selected parks and recreational facilities open during the summer months. The Wittman Village Community Center will host the first event at 300 Pearl St., Visalia. For information, call 636-5000.

June 20 – Battle of the Badges – 6-9pm
Tulare County Board of Supervisors presents the Battle of the Badges at Miller Brown Park in Woodlake. Free admission. For information, call 564-8055.

June 21 – Free Admission to McDermont Field House
Access the McDermont Field House facility in Lindsay including soccer fields, basketball courts and interactive arcade at no cost. Upgrade to a day pass to enjoy the 50-foot rock wall or the Flowrider water attraction. For information, visit mcdermontfieldhouse.com.

June 21-Aug 2 – Movies in the Park
Movies in the Park return to Riverway Sports Park in Visalia. Movies begin at dusk and are shown on a giant screen in the new special events promenade in the park. This is a free family event. Movie schedule includes June 21st – "Frozen" – Sing-A-Long; June 28th – "Saving Mr. Banks"; July 12th – "Vampire Academy"; July 19th – "The Avengers"; July 26th – "Gravity"; and Aug 2 – "The Lego Movie."

See more events online
ourvalleyvoice.com

COMMUNITY

June

Through July 18 – Lemoore High School Public Swim – 12-1:50pm
Lemoore High School pool will be open for public swimming Monday through Friday. Cost is $2.50. A season swim pass is available for $25 or $75 Family. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

Through Aug. 2 – Visalia Public Swim – 12-3pm
Monday through Saturday, the lifeguard-supervised pool at Redwood High School will be open to the public. Redwood High School is located at 1001 W Main St., Visalia. Those under age 6 must be accompanied by an individual 16 years or older. Cost is $1.50 ages 13+ years and $1.25 for ages 12 and under. Passes are also available for $20 at Anthony Community Center. The pool will be closed on July 4. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

Through Aug 3 – Hanford Public Pool
Hanford Pool is open through August 3, Tuesday through Saturday from 12-4pm and Sunday from 5-8pm. The pool is located at 415 Ford St. For information, visit ci.hanford.ca.us.

Through Summer – Porterville City Pool – 12:15-4:15pm
The City Pool, 97 N. Park Dr., will be open Monday through Thursday through the summer. Admission: $1 children, $2 adult. Monthly pool passes, $30/adults and $20/children, are available at the pool cashier. For information, call 782-7543.

June 19 – Homeopathy Talk Group – 6-7pm
Homeopathy First will host a monthly "Homeopathy Talk" group. The gathering focuses on green healing and more natural approaches to health. Homeopathy will not be the only topic or modality discussed. The talk is held on the third Thursday of the month. For more information, call 679-8718. Homeopathy First is located at 216 E. Pine St. in Exeter, above Pine Street Pediatrics.

June 19 – Tule Gem and Mineral Society – 6:30pm
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series continues with a look at the Tule Gem and Mineral Society. The program meets on Thursdays every week through July 24th at the Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Ave. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

June 19, 24, 25 – Elder Abuse Prevention Training
Tulare County Public Guardian & Adult Protective Services are providing education on how to protect older and dependent adults from abuse through eight local trainings. Residents will learn about elder abuse and receive information about services and resources that are available. Events will be held at Woodlake Senior Center, Lindsay Senior Center, Exeter Senior Center, Earlimart Senior Center, Cutler-Orosi Senior Center, Goshen Senior Center and Porterville Senior Center. For information, call Tammie Weyker at 624-8007 or email tmweyker@tularehhsa.org.

June 20-August – Steps 4 Pets Walking Group – 7-8am
The Valley Oak SPCA walking group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For information, visit vospca.org.

June 21 – Tulare Kings Writers – 10am-12pm
Tulare Kings Writers will meet at Arts Visalia, 214 E. Oak Avenue, Visalia. Author, instructor and speaker Marilyn Meredith will present "Simple Self-Editing Tips," explaining what to do before sending your writing off to a publisher. The event is free. Information: 280-9774.

June 26-28 – Grand Bethel Job's Daughters Convention
Job's Daughters International, California will hold its convention at the Visalia Convention Center. For information, visit caiojd.org.

June 26 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

June 26 – Composting and Recycling – 6:30pm
Tulare County Library Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series continues with a look at the Composting and Recycling. The program meets on Thursdays every week through July 24th at the Visalia Branch Library. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

June 26 – Valley Oak Garden Club
Tom Cemo will speak on "The Living Tree." For information, call 686-2074.
June 28 – Kaweah Delta Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening – 8am-Noon
Kaweah Delta Health Care District will host a free screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms at Kaweah Delta Imaging Center, 4949 W. Cypress Ave., Visalia. Men and women who are 60 years or older and have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, emphysema or obesity should be screened along with men and women 50 years and older with a family history of the condition. To get a free screening, advance registration is required by calling 625-9503.

July

July 3 – Downtown Scavenger Hunt – 6:30pm
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series continues with a Downtown Scavenger Hunt. The program meets Thursdays every week through July 24th at the Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Ave. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.
July 5 – Community Pool Party – 12-3pm
The Visalia Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a free pool party at Redwood High School pool, 1001 W. Main St. Those under age 6 must be accompanied by an individual 16 years or older. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

July 8, Aug. 12, Sept 9 & Oct. 14 – Valley Oak SPCA Yappy Hour – 5-9pm
The Planning Mill Pizzeria will donate a portion of Yappy Hour proceeds to Valley Oak SPCA on the Second Tuesday of each month. Well-behaved, leashed pets are welcome on the patio at The Planning Mill, 514 E. Main St., Suite A, Visalia. For information, visit vospca.org.

July 10 – 55+ Rocks Speaker Series – 11:30am-12pm
"Newspapers Aren't Just Print Anymore" will be the featured topic at the 55+ Rocks Speaker series at Visalia Senior Center, 310 N. Locust St., Visalia. The free program addresses topics such as health, finance, nutrition and more. Lunch reservations must be made 24-hours in advance by calling 713-4481.

July 10 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. Doors open at 6:15 for bidders to examine auction items. The meeting begins at 7pm with the auction starting at 7:30pm. A raffle is held during each auction. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

July 10 – Green Cleaning – 6:30pm
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series continues with Green Cleaning. The program meets Thursdays every week through July 24th at the Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Avenue. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

July 13 – 50+ Rocks Hiking Club – 8am-6pm
The 50+ Rocks Hiking club will travel to The Watchtower. The program offers those ages 50 and older guided hikes and a seat on the Sequoia Shuttle. Bring a sack lunch, water and daypack. Cost is $25. Pre-registration required. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

July 14 – Dog Obedience – 6pm
The Lemoore Recreation Department will partner with Critter Sitters Training Academy to offer dog obedience training. Bring dogs on a leash and some treats. Classes meet Mondays for 7 consecutive weeks at the Civic Auditorium. Cost is $80. For information, visit lemoore.com/parks.

July 17 – Stars and Stories – 6:30pm
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series continues with Stars and Stories. The program meets Thursdays every week through July 24th. The evening event will meet at Sam Pena Planetarium. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

July 19 – Mensa Test – 11am-1pm
American Mensa Chair Dan Burg will conduct the Mensa Test at the offices of the *Valley Voice*, 208 W. Main St., Suite E, Visalia. The fee for the proctored IQ testing session – an opportunity to find out how smart you really are – is $40 and reservations are required. For reservations or more information, email tulare-kings@sfmensa.org.

July 24 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

July 24 – Duffy Hudson as Albert Einstein – 6:30pm
Tulare County Library Visalia Branch Adult Summer Reading Program Literary Elements series will host its final program with Duffy Hudson as Albert Einstein. The program is sponsored by Friends of the Tulare County Library.

August

Aug 1 – iPhones & You – 6:45-8:15pm
Visalia Parks and Recreation is offering a workshop on advanced features of the Apple iPhone at the Visalia Senior Center. Cost is $15. Register online at liveandplayvisalia.com.

Aug. 2 – Exeter Volunteer Fire Department Poker Run
The Exeter Fire Department Poker Run begins at Exeter Memorial Building. For information, 592-3714.

ART

June

Through June 27 – Visalia Art League Annual Membership Exhibition
Arts Visalia presents the Visalia Art League Annual Membership Exhibition from June 4-27. The league is an educational and philanthropic organization open to amateur and professional artists and non-artists who are patrons of the arts. Arts Visalia, 214 E. Oak, Visalia, is open Wednesday-Saturday from 12-5:30 p.m. For information, visit www.artsvisalia.org.

Through June 30 – Bill Dillberg Photography Exhibit – 5:30-8pm
Photography exhibit by Bill Dillberg features Ireland and other scenic spots and will be held during the First Friday Downtown Visalia art walk and Brandon-Mitchell Gallery in the Spiritual Awareness Center, 117 S. Locust. For information, visit spirtualawarenesscenter.com.

Through July 7 – A Show of Our Own
The Creative Center Artists present this exhibition at the Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race Ave., Visalia.

Through July 26 – Yosemite Renaissance XXIX Exhibit
Yosemite Renaissance, an exhibit originating at the Museum in Yosemite Valley, will have its works on display at The Kings Art Center, 605 N. Douty St., Hanford. For information, call 584-1065.

June 21-22, 28-29 – A Box of Chocolates – 10am-4pm
This Exeter Courthouse Gallery and Museum spring art exhibit brings together the work of George Tanimoto and Jerry Smith. The Courthouse Gallery is located at 125 South B Street.

June 25 – Crafty Corner –10:30am
On the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, the Visalia Branch Library hosts the Crafty Corner group. Bring your own projects and chat with the group. For information, visit tularecountylibrary.org.

June 20-22 – Open Air Peddler's Market
The market featuring antiques and collectibles is held at Tumbleweeds Antiques, 159 North B Street, Exeter, and at Exeter Treasures, 558 E. Palm. The market runs the third weekend of every month. To reserve space or for information, call 592-1940 or 936-1487.

July

July 7-August 29– "Beauty Runs in the Family" – 10am-3pm
The Creative Center's Jon Ginsburg Gallery will host a mother and daughter show featuring works by Milli and Lesli Pepper. An opening reception will be held at the Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race, Visalia, Friday July 11, 2014 from 6-8pm. For a tour of the gallery, call 733-9329, or visit the Creative Center office at 606 N. Bridge.

July 18-20 – Open Air Peddler's Market
The market featuring antiques and collectibles is held at Tumbleweeds Antiques, 159 North B Street, Exeter, and at Exeter Treasures, 558 E. Palm. To reserve space or for information, call 592-1940 or 936-1487.

July 19 – Christmas in July – 10am-3pm
Central Valley W.O.M.E.N.'S Network presents Christmas in July at the Lamp Liter Inn in Visalia. Admission is $2, current military and immediate family are free. Over 45 vendors will have crafts and gifts to jump-start holiday shopping. Proceeds benefit CVWN Scholarship and Relay for Life. For information, visit centralvalley-womensnetwork.org.

Tulare County Fair Offers Fundraising Opportunity

Staff Reports

Local civic clubs, youth organizations and churches can pre-sell Tulare County Fair carnival wristbands to raise funds for their activities, while supporting the fair.

The wristbands provide an all-access, one-day pass to the carnival and Kiddie Land. Organizations earn $1.50 per wristband sold. For information, call the Tulare County Fairgrounds, 686-4707, or sign up for the program at the fairgrounds office, 215 E. Martin Luther King Jr., Tulare.

The wristbands sell for $20 each. Locations secured to date include the Vallarta Supermarkets in Visalia and Dinuba (starting in July); the Porterville, Tulare and Lindsay chambers of commerce; the Tulare Downtown Association; and Tulare Regional Medical Center Human Resources Department. For a regularly updated list of locations, visit www.tcfair.org.

"The wristband sales program allows us to support community organizations and makes it possible for fair-goers to enjoy their favorite rides over and over during one day," noted Pamela Fyock, CEO. "The carnival and Kiddie Land are very popular spots and a tradition of all fairs. We offer the wristbands help make the fun more affordable to families, and to allow local organizations to generate a little revenue."

The Tulare County Fair will run September 10-14, offering a week of entertainment for the family, educational activities for children, the annual Junior Livestock Auction, fair food, fun rides and more. Visit tcfair.org for ongoing updates to the schedule of events.

Summer Pet Grooming Tips

Valley Oak SPCA

"Anybody who does not know what soap tastes like never washed a dog."
— Franklin P. Jones

By keeping your pet as well-groomed as possible, you will both enjoy the hot summer months much more. Here are some other tips on how to keep your pet clean and cool this summer:

To Shave or Not to Shave?

Not to shave!

Shaving a dog or cat can do more harm than good. Their coat is designed to help regulate their body temperature. The undercoat and outer coat form an insulated barrier that keeps the temperature regulated. It becomes increasingly difficult for a dog to keep itself cool with no fur. Be aware that once shaved, a double-coated pet's coat may never grow back the same. It can end up patchy, discolored, thinner, and will shed even more than before! The rough topcoat may never grow back as well, and your pet's natural defenses from heat and cold will be gone for the rest of its life.

Dogs and cats have sweat glands on their footpads and they have their own super-effective way to cool down. Cats lick their fur and paws, and when the saliva evaporates, it cools them down; dogs keep themselves cool by vaporizing large amounts of water from their lungs and airways when they pant, expelling body heat in the process.

Sunblock, Not Just for People

Pets are at risk of getting sunburned and skin cancer just like humans. There are pet-friendly brands of sunblock available. If you have a pet with a short or thin hair and especially if you have a hairless four-legged friend you should really consider applying sunblock to keep them safe. Even if your pet has a thick coat you can apply sunblock to sun-sensitive areas such as tips of ears, nose the belly and groin.

Baths are Good!

Regular bathing will not only keep your pet clean and smelling good, but it will also help release some of the undercoat that has been sticking around since winter time. Bathing and brushing with a de-shedding tool will minimize some of the extra hair; this keeps your pet cooler and your floor cleaner.

Avoid using people products on your dog or cat as these may not be pet-friendly; there is a wide variety of pet-friendly shampoos and products available. If bathing a dog or cat is not for you, or if your pet is giving you trouble with home baths, look into taking him/her to a professional groomer.

Beware of Foxtails

These can be a dog or cat's worst enemy. Foxtails can embed in fur and eventually work their way into the skin where they cause painful abscesses and infection. They also get lodged in eyes, ears, between toes and can be inhaled through the nose. Any of these circumstances means a trip to the vet for your pet and possible surgery.

Nail and Dental Care

It's important not to forget that your pet's nails and teeth need regular attention too. Cats and dogs need to have their nails trimmed. Nails can become very long and sharp and can cause major damage to themselves and others if left to grow. Nails can curl inward and grow into the skin causing major pain and infection. Don't forget the dewclaws; they can get caught on objects and tear. If your dog is known to jump on people, be sure to pay special attention to their nails. Regular tooth-brushing for cats and dogs can help you avoid costly dental procedures in the future.

Flea and Tick Treatment

Keep your pet healthy and comfortable by applying flea and tick treatment. This can help avoid:

- Fleas and flea allergies
- Hot spots
- Skin infections
- Tapeworms
- Lyme disease

Valley Oak SPCA has affordable flea and tick treatment for sale at our shelter, 29016 Highway 99, Monday and Wednesday 9:30am-6pm, and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9am-5pm, and Sunday noon-3pm, and at our Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic 2622 E. Main St., Visalia, Monday-Friday from 7:15am-4pm.

Remember, if you have questions or concerns regarding your pet's health, always seek advice from your veterinarian.

Motel Drive

Continued from p. 1

Goodwin, Finney and Ellis are from Fresno. Their drummer, Isaac "The Mexecutioner" Carrillo, is from Visalia. In addition to his musical talent – he also plays bass guitar and keyboards, and produces – "he's just a great guy to be around," Goodwin said. "Even if you weren't playing music, you just want to hang out with him."

Motel Drive won the 2012 Fan's Choice Award at Chuckchansi Casino's "Rock at the Top Battle of the Bands," and the 2010 Fresno State Battle of the Bands. College radio station KFSR (CSU Fresno) and Monterey Bay Area radio station KPIG hosted the band for live in-studio sets streamed across the Web. The band also made two live appearances on the KMPH-Fox morning news show, "Great Day." In 2011, the band toured its way to Austin for the SXSW music festival.

"Basically, what we do is stick to what we like," said Goodwin, who added the band plays covers of other bands about 25% of the time. "We play everything from Nirvana to the Beatles to the Rolling Stones. We kind of do covers and make them our own."

The band's new album, which includes 11 songs, is called *Forever and a Day*, a result of how long it took to finish it. "It took two years to put this album out," explained Goodwin. "Our old drummer went on to do other things and Isaac had to learn our songs. It was one thing after another."

Goodwin hopes to be doing basically the same thing for the foreseeable future – playing rock n' roll with the same guys, playing festivals and shows, and recording.

"I love playing Visalia," said Goodwin. "It's one of the raddest towns in the Valley." He likes to perform here once or twice a month. "If you come too often, people stop coming to see you. They've seen your act."

Performing with the band at the June 27th show will be Keith Crain, banjo player with The Whiskey and the Devil Chaplain; Mike Monteiro, original Motel Drive member and CD producer, on guitar and harmonica; and Jimmy Godfrey of Electric Grease, who plays harmonica on the CD.

Motel Drive

DeeJay Savage Salvador will open the 21+ 9:30pm show. Tickets are $10 and include a free CD. The Cellar Door is located at 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For tickets or more information, visit ticketweb.com or snvfoundation.org.

Milli and Leslie Pepper Present 'Beauty Runs in the Family'

"Sea Collage" by Lesli Pepper

Joanie Constable

The Jon Ginsburg Gallery at the Creative Center has announced its guest artists for July and August, Milli and Lesli Pepper, who will present their exhibition "Beauty Runs in the Family."

Milli is a Valley treasure. Her watercolors have graced the Blossom Trail Festival posters and calendars for many years. She has a worldwide following and has won several prestigious art awards in her 40-plus years of painting. She is a founding member of The Door Gallery in Fresno, where she has been an artist in residence for several years. She currently resides in Santa Barbara.

"Blossoms at Breakfast" by Milli Pepper

Milli's daughter, Lesli Pepper, is an accomplished artist as well. Her work is different than her mother's. Lesli creates collage, fabric design, architectural renderings and interior design, as well as costume design and construction. Lesli also lives in Santa Barbara.

"Fall Thistles" by Milli Pepper

The opening reception will be at the Jon Ginsburg Gallery, 410 E. Race, Visalia, on Friday July 11, from 6-8pm. If you have admired Milli's work, this may be one of the last times her art will be shown in the Valley.

The show will be up July 1 through August 28. Check in at the Creative Center office at 606 N. Bridge during business hours (10am-3pm weekdays) for a tour of the gallery, or call 733-9329. The Creative Center is a non-profit community arts center for adults with developmental disabilities.

RECYCLE THIS ISSUE
PAPER DOESN'T GROW ON TREES